

Anger mounts over Marquette

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Less than a week after news broke that Marquette University had rescinded a high-profile job offer to an out lesbian, students there delivered a message to university president Robert A. Wild: Resign immediately.

During an emotional May 11 meeting with Wild, group after group of students approached microphones to repeatedly read a prepared statement calling on Wild to step down, to publicly apologize and to re-extend the original offer he made Jodi O'Brien to become dean of the college of arts and sciences.

Although the wording of their demands was strong, the tone among the more than 400 students who attended the event at Alumni Memorial Union was more sad than angry. Some students, many of them wear-

ing rainbow stickers, spoke through tears and quivering voices.

"Marquette has broken my heart," one student said, breaking from the prepared statement. "This is not the institution that over 100 years ago was revolutionary for admitting women."

William Malloy, a senior nursing student, fought back tears as he told WiG that the university's action "makes me ashamed to have a Marquette diploma."

"Some of my closest friends are gay, and it embarrasses me to have to tell them I went to Marquette," Malloy said.

Students have staged three demonstrations and created a Facebook page titled Marquette: Do Not Discriminate Against Jodi O'Brien. More than 3,300 people have joined the page.

Marquette's faculty has also organized around the incident. The university's academic senate approved a resolution May 10 condemning Wild and recommending a vote of no confidence in him in the fall, unless the university has by then assured faculty members that their advancement will not be impeded by the topics they research.

Academic freedom is at

the heart of the concerns of many on campus. Wild has cited O'Brien's published writings on lesbian sex and marriage as the reason for retracting his offer, saying they were inconsistent with Marquette's Roman Catholic mission.

But Marquette faculty countered that the writings in question were published in respected peer-reviewed academic journals and were well-known to the search committee that recommended O'Brien for the job after interviewing her several times over the last two years.

They also pointed out that O'Brien's 15-years of experience teaching at Seattle University, a Jesuit school where she heads the sociology department, demonstrated her success working within a Roman Catholic institution.

O'Brien's situation has sent shock waves throughout academia and drawn attention from national media, including USA Today, The New York Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Several Marquette students and faculty members told WiG they feared the negative publicity had tarnished the university's ac-

Marquette page 15

In WiGOUT!

Out singer/songwriter Melissa Ferrick talks about her latest release. Ferrick appears at PrideFest June 11.



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY



PHOTO: DAN ZAITZ

Student protesters strategize before a May 11 meeting with Marquette University president Robert A. Wild. More than 400 people attended.

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Leaders urge hate crime charge in Milwaukee slaying

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

They remember her cheerfulness, her chattiness and her irrepressible sense of humor.

But most of all, the friends and family of Dana (Chanel)

Larkin remember her infectious smile and generous nature.

"No matter how down you were, she was always there to make you feel better," said one of more than 100 mourners who gathered

May 14 at LifeStyle Ministries, 2328 W. Capitol Drive, to say goodbye to the 26-year-old transgender woman.

On May 7, Larkin was shot three times, including once in the head. Andrew Olacirequi, 27, faces charges of first-

degree reckless homicide and use of a dangerous weapon in connection of the killing.

In his statement to police, Olacirequi said he was looking for a prostitute when he met Larkin on the corner of North 27th Street and

North Avenue. He said he was carrying a loaded gun because he was going to a "rough neighborhood."

Olacirequi said Larkin agreed to perform oral sex for \$20 and they drove to Slaying page 15

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

BAGGAGE HANDLING

George Alan Rekers, a prominent anti-gay activist and co-founder of the Family Research Council, was caught at the Miami International Airport returning from a 10-day European trip with a male prostitute he met on Rentboy.com.

Confronted by reporters from the Miami New Times, Reker said he'd hired the 20-year-old to help him carry his luggage. He added that he didn't realize his traveling companion was a prostitute until midway through their trip, even though the ad that brought the two together touted the escort's "smooth, sweet, tight ass" and his "perfectly built eight inch cock."

On his Web site, Reker accused the New Times of "inflammatory innuendo."

WRIGHT OUT NOW

Country singer/songwriter Chely Wright came out May 5, a highly publicized announcement that coincided with the release of her memoir, "Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer" from Pantheon. Wright, who has hit No. 1 on the Billboard country charts, says, "No one like me in country music has ever admitted his or her homosexuality. There are gays in Nashville, but as far as anyone is led to believe, they are not those of us on magazine covers. How could I be gay? Well, I am."

LITTLE BIT COUNTRY

Maybe "no one like me" is accurate for Wright, but WigWag has not forgotten k.d. lang's bold coming out

years ago, when she still had a torch and twang following in Nashville and beyond.

LATTER DAY MORMON

The lesbian great great granddaughter of Mormon leader Brigham Young is running for Congress. The Democratic primary campaign of Claudia Wright, a teacher who lives with her partner, got a big boost May 10 when party leaders in Utah refused to endorse her opponent, U.S. Rep. Jim Matheson. A five-term incumbent, Matheson has fallen out of party favor for voting more like a Republican than a Democrat.

ICONIC BRIEFS

Maybe this was inevitable: Keith Haring underwear. The Undergear for Keith Haring Limited Collection, featuring briefs, boxers and T-shirts sporting the late artist's iconic cartoon figures, is available at Undergear.com. Prices range from \$18-\$25. Shipping is free.

GAGA GOTCHA

Police in Martinsburg, W.Va., arrested two men for allegedly scamming fans of Lady Gaga and Adam Lambert. The arrest warrants allege Sherman Luke Loy and Dean R. DeSana obtained money by false pretenses. They allegedly sold tickets to a fictional Gaga-Lambert concert starting at about \$100 a piece. Sales totaled about \$17,800, suggesting that a concert tour with Gaga and Lambert would not be the summer's hottest.

'JC' ON CC

Comedy Central is considering about two dozen shows for its lineup, including a series called "JC," in which Jesus Christ is portrayed as a regular guy who moves to New York City to escape his father's shadow. Series watchers apparently

would tune in regularly to answer "WWJD." The production company behind "JC" has delivered "The Office," "Ugly Betty" and "The Biggest Loser."

LL AS LL

Meanwhile, in development for the big screen is "Inferno," starring Lindsay Lohan as the late Linda Lovelace, who starred in the 1972 porn film "Deep Throat." Producer Wali Razaqi told The Los Angeles Times: "Not that Lindsay's life is similar in any way — but she's been through a lot of ups and downs. A lot of times you're loved and then you're hated, and I think she can relate to those emotions and feelings."

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New site set to give LGBT center a bigger, better profile

By Lucky Tomaszek

Staff writer

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's relocation will enable improvements in both services and programming, said executive director Maggi Cage.

The center is moving this summer into the Blatz Boiler House, 225 E. Highland Ave. Though the paperwork has yet to be finalized, Cage anticipates signing a 10-year lease on four floors of the historic landmark building.

Selection of the space began two and a half years ago. The search process involved the executive directors of all of the LGBT organizations currently housed within the center. They set mandatory criteria for a new space: It had to be on the

major city bus lines, it had to have an elevator that went to every floor and it needed to be safe, with adequate fire escapes. They also wanted a building with enough parking to accommodate attendees of the center's nighttime programming.

The Blatz Building meets all of these criteria, Cage said. In addition, the new location will give the center a street profile in a high-traffic area and offer an improved, more modern layout than the current location at 315 W. Court St.

"We anticipate some of our programs will be better utilized in the space," Cage said. For example, "currently the choirs are able to rehearse here, but they have to perform someplace

'The new location will have performance space.'

else," she explained. "The new location will have performance space."

All of the center's current major tenants plan to make the move simultaneously, and five new tenants might share the space — some of them

LGBT-focused organizations and some not, Cage said.

Two of the floors at the new site will require renovation, but Cage said she was unable to answer questions regarding either the rent or build-out construction budget until the lease was officially signed. Renovations will include creating office space for the tenants, building a new conference room and re-working an existing space into a community room.

The center will hold its annual fundraiser at the new site June 27. This year's theme is a "hard hat party," which will fund costs associated with outfitting the space.

Guests will have the opportunity to tour the new site. The event will feature live music, catering by Potawatomi and prize giveaways.

Patrick Price, the center's philanthropy director, said he hopes to raise \$15,000, which is only a small portion of the projected \$75,000 needed to buy office and computer equipment. Additional funding will have to come from



PHOTO: JERAMEY JANNENE

The historic building complex where the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is moving is on the National Register of Historic Places.

grants and matching funds.

"The world is in a very challenging economic situation, and we can honor that," Price said.

Price said he hopes to have as many members of

the LGBT community at the party as possible. "This party is a great opportunity for the community to see how we've grown, how we're serving the community and to celebrate that," he said.

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Thanks for reading the Wisconsin Gazette.

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Partner registration falls

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

When Wisconsin's domestic partner registry went into effect on Aug. 3, 2009, there was an initial rush of applications. By December, more than 1,300 same-sex couples had registered.

But the pace of registrations has dropped off sharply this year. In Milwaukee County, for example, only 22 couples have registered in 2010, down from 200 in

2009.

Overall, a total of 2,660 Wisconsinites were reported to be living in domestic-partner arrangements last year, compared to 2.4 million married people.

"I am not surprised that there was an initial surge of domestic partnership registrations when the legal protections first became available in August of 2009 and that the numbers have evened out over time," said

Katie Belanger, director of Fair Wisconsin. "The Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law estimated that the number of couples who would register in the first calendar year would be between 1,200 and 5,000 couples, so we are certainly on track with where we thought we would be."

Statistics from 2009 showed the continuation of a decades-long trend of fewer people in the state getting

married. The Department of Health Services' annual report on marriages and divorces in the state showed that 30,057 couples tied the knot in Wisconsin last year, 1,400 fewer than in 2008.

The state reported a total of 16,705 divorces last year, which means there were 1.8 weddings for every divorce in the state. A decade ago, there were 2.1 marriages for every divorce, and in 1920 there were 9.2.



PHOTO: LEONARD SOBCHAK

Stumping against the right

State Sen. Jim Sullivan (left) and Brenda Lewison attend a May 17 Human Rights League PAC fundraiser in Wauwatosa for Sullivan's re-election campaign. Sullivan, who faces a tough challenge in November from anti-gay Tea Party activist Leah Vukmir, said he's counting on the LGBT community's support in the race. "You always have an advocate as long as I am in the state Senate," Sullivan promised guests.

Law expands access to STD drugs

Gov. Jim Doyle has signed a new law allowing physicians and advance practice clinics to prescribe an extra dose of antibiotics for people with STDs to give to their sexual partners. The legislation applies to the three most common STDs – chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends expedited partner

therapy as an effective way to reduce the incidence of STDs. Twenty-one states currently use the strategy.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, which advocated for the bill, reports that the 2009-2010 legislative session was the most successful in the state's history for reproductive health advocates – and the first in a generation to pass pro-women's health legislation into law.

Lawmakers approved: the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims act, which requires Wisconsin emergency rooms to provide rape victims with accurate information about and timely access to emergency birth control to prevent pregnancy from their assault; Contraceptive Equity, which requires insurance companies in Wisconsin that provide prescription drug benefits plans to cover

birth control; Prescription Protection, which mandates that all pharmacies have someone available to dispense birth control prescriptions; and the Healthy Youth Act, which requires schools that offer sex education to ensure their programs are medically accurate, age appropriate and follow core principles proven to reduce teen births and STD rates.

—L.W.

GWEN MOORE HONORED BY NGLTF

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force honored U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore at a May 11 fundraiser in Washington.

Moore, who has represented Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District since 2005, was cited by NGLTF as "a leading ally for LGBT

fairness and a force for social justice."

Moore helped lead the push to pass the 2009 expansion of the federal hate crimes law to include sexual orientation, gender and disability status as protected categories. In 2006, she fought against amending the Wisconsin Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, challenging African-American

leaders and others to reject the measure.

OUTREACH SEEKS 'HEALTH PROMOTERS'

OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center, is looking for volunteer health promoters to help LGBT people quit smoking.

Volunteers would talk to smokers in their social

networks about the risks of tobacco use, and they would also support individuals who have decided to stop smoking and refer individuals who have already quit to services provided by the rm2breathe program and its partner agencies.

Rm2breathe is a Wisconsin statewide program that was created to change attitudes about tobacco use among

Milwaukee man slain

Funeral services for Michael A. Claudio, 59, were scheduled for 11 a.m. May 20 at Greater Mount Sinai Church of God in Christ, 5384 N. 60th St. Claudio was found slain in his apartment in the 7900 block of West Bender May 13. Details of Claudio's death were not available at press time.

—L.W.

minority social networks, with the goal of reducing smoking within those networks.

The volunteer positions entail four to six hours of work monthly and volun-

teers receive a \$50 monthly stipend. For more information, contact Outreach at 608-255-8582.

—L.W.



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For more information, contact Julie Bock, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Director of Programs, (414) 292-3070.

Q-BLOK (LGBT Young Adults Housing Initiative) is a collaborative effort of Lad Lake, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Pathfinders, Inc., and St. Aemilian Lakeside. Generous support has also been provided by the Cream City Foundation, the Helen Bader Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

Arizona act outrages activists

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

LGBT civil rights activists joined a national chorus of critics of the nation's most stringent immigration measure, signed into law in Arizona late last month.

The law, signed by Gov. Jan Brewer April 23, criminalizes failure to carry immigration documents and gives law enforcement officers broad powers to detain anyone suspected of being in the country illegally.

The measure, endorsed by U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is scheduled to take effect in August, unless a delay comes with expected court challenges.

Some lawmakers in other states, including Michigan, have suggested adopting similar measures, but the U.S. Justice Department strongly criticized the law, as have

many civil and human rights groups, including the nation's largest and oldest LGBT organizations.

"We stand in solidarity with immigration reform advocates," said Lambda Legal executive director Kevin Cathcart.

Since the 1970s, Cathcart said, Lambda has fought for immigration reform that "must include, at a minimum, an end to the unequal treatment of same-sex binational couples, revision of unfair restrictions on asylum, respect for the due process rights of those held in detention and a path to legalization."

Rea Carey, of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, called the Arizona legislation "draconian" and "inhumane."

"It has no place on the books anywhere," she said. "The potential for racial

profiling, infringement of civil liberties and violence and harassment against individuals and their families just going about their daily lives is enormous."

A number of other organizations – labor unions, religious associations and business groups – also condemned the Arizona legislation.

The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association, in a statement released May 5, echoed calls from other hospitality organizations in condemning "the recent hurtful and discriminatory actions on immigration policy taken by Arizona."

IGLTA, however, urged against a boycott: "We know that this otherwise well-intended approach will harm many of our ally businesses, large and small, that are welcoming and inclusive of the



PHOTO: JOBS WITH JUSTICE


Demonstrators in Washington, D.C., protest Arizona's new immigration law. Demonstrations took place across the country after the governor signed the bill April 23.

LGBT community and others."

The U.S. Travel Association also opposed an Arizona

boycott, stating, "Boycotts ... will lead to job losses and economic hardship for families and local communities."

It is inappropriate to punish the men and women of our industry who have done no harm to others."



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Judge hears DOMA case

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A Boston federal judge held the first hearing on an equal protection challenge to the U.S. Defense of Marriage Act, which bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

Representing eight same-sex couples and three widowers, attorney Mary L. Bonauto told U.S. District Court Judge Joseph L. Tauro May 6: "This is a classic equal protection issue. The Constitution applies to gay and lesbian citizens, and married ones, too. What governmental purpose does the U.S. have as an employer in treating some of its married employees, retirees and surviving annuitants differently from other married persons?"

Bonauto is with the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the New England LGBT organization that first

won a legal fight for civil unions in Vermont and then, six years ago, secured marriage rights for same-sex couples in Massachusetts.

GLAD is challenging Section 3 of DOMA, which Bill Clinton signed into law in 1996, when it seemed Hawaii might legalize same-sex marriage. Hawaii didn't legalize gay marriage, but five states and the District of Columbia have in the years since.

Section 3 of DOMA defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman for all purposes under federal law. DOMA thus bars the U.S. government from extending to legally married same-sex couples the estimated 1,000 rights and benefits extended to legally married opposite-sex couples, including pensions, health insurance, widower benefits and joint tax filings.

"DOMA means that our country doesn't treat our

family or our marriage as equal to our friends' and co-workers' families," said plaintiff Nancy Gill, a U.S. Postal Service employee who is legally married to Marcelle Letourneau. Together the women are raising two children.

"Under DOMA, we are not married, and my federal employer must deny Marcelle my health benefits. Under DOMA, Marcelle won't receive the federal health benefit given to surviving spouses. She'll also be denied my pension benefits," Gill said.

During the hearing, Bonauto argued that:

- By singling out only the marriages of same-sex couples, DOMA violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

- DOMA represents an unprecedented intrusion of the federal government into marriage law, which for 230

years has been legislated by states.

- By denying federal protections to families, DOMA burdens the marriages of same-sex couples and their right to maintain family integrity.

U.S. Justice Department attorney W. Scott Simpson presented the defense, which included a statement that the Obama administration disagrees with DOMA.

Simpson said DOMA allows states to determine whether to recognize same-sex marriage, but that states cannot dictate how the federal government will deal with marriage.

GLAD also argued a motion for summary judgment, while the Justice Department argued a motion to dismiss the case.

The federal court case, filed last March, is Gill et al v. Office of Personnel Management.



PHOTO: COURTESY GLAD

Nancy Gill and Marcelle Letourneau are plaintiffs in a federal case to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act.

Marriage equality suit filed in Minnesota

Many gay couples in Minnesota looked south in envy when Iowa legalized same-sex marriage in 2009. But some leading gay activist groups and leaders are calling a similar effort in Minnesota risky and even misguided.

Leaders of OutFront Minnesota, the state's most powerful gay rights group, oppose a lawsuit filed earlier this month

seeking marriage equality. Democrat Scott Dibble, a gay state senator from Minneapolis, predicted its chances for success are "remote." Dale Carpenter, a University of Minnesota law professor and expert on legal issues surrounding sexual orientation, said it's likely the lawsuit would "do more harm than good."

A nearly 40-year-old Minnesota Supreme Court ruling shut down gay marriage as a possibility in Minnesota at a time when it barely even registered in most peoples' minds. Activists worry that bringing the issue back before the right-leaning state Supreme Court could cement

that precedent.

OutFront and others prefer a legislative route to gay marriage in Minnesota.

However, the plaintiffs in the case have said they're tired of waiting for the ideal circumstances.

—AP

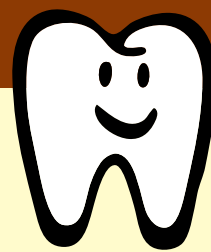
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{ Editorial }

Listecki culpa

Marquette University ended an exhaustive two-year search for a new dean of its college of arts and sciences in April, when officials offered the position to out lesbian scholar Jodi O'Brien. The search committee interviewed her several times, reviewed her academic record and decided she was the best candidate for the job.

But shortly after O'Brien accepted Marquette's offer, university president Robert A. Wild abruptly withdrew it, making vague references to writings she'd published in peer-reviewed academic journals about lesbian sex and same-sex marriage. These writings, already well-known to the search committee, were deemed incompatible with Marquette's Roman Catholic mission.

As the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported last week, Wild's change of heart came after pressure was exerted by new Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listecki. His opposition to O'Brien is hardly surprising, given the hard-line activism he demonstrated as head of the Diocese of La Crosse.

But diocesan politics have no place at a research institution. Listecki's interference has opened deep wounds within the Marquette University community and cast a shadow over the university's reputation.

All Jesuit universities face a difficult balancing act. They must provide the academic freedom needed to produce ground-breaking scholarship without collapsing the framework of Roman Catholic theology that hovers just overhead.

For years, Marquette University managed to successfully navigate these sometimes conflicting interests. But Listecki has thrown the state's largest private university seriously off course, sending shock waves throughout academia.

Listecki's action will cost the university in terms of the quality of faculty it will be able to attract in the future. The insinuation of church intervention into scholarship coupled with the shockingly unprofessional manner in which O'Brien's job offer was handled will deter the best and brightest from seeking positions at Marquette.

Many of the most gifted and ambitious students will also be wary of applying to a school whose name on their degrees might be associated with academic controversy. LGBT students especially will be turned off.

In one misguided application of homophobia, Listecki has immeasurably tarnished the Marquette University brand.



"Mom, Dad, I prefer gathering."

{ Letters }

The following letter was sent by Dr. Robert J. Starshak to Marquette University president Robert A. Wild:

I am writing to you on behalf of the board of directors of Fair Wisconsin Education Fund, the state-wide organization dedicated to advancing, achieving and protecting the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Wisconsinites. We achieve this mission by educating about the harms of all forms of discrimination and by building inclusive communities and workplaces.

We at Fair Wisconsin wish to express our profound disappointment with the recent turn of events surrounding the rescinded offer to Dr. Jodi O'Brien to serve as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Regardless of whether the decision was based on Dr. O'Brien's sexual orientation or the subject matter of her previously published works, this action sends the wrong message about Marquette University

to communities of faith, members of the LGBT community and all Wisconsin citizens.

As leaders in the fight for equality, we work with businesses, government and individuals across the state who wish to build inclusive workplaces and attract and retain a diverse workforce. We would welcome the opportunity to work with Marquette University to enhance its diversity. Marquette University has demonstrated its willingness to expand its diversity. For example, there is an annual lecture that is hosted by the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at Marquette University that is named in my parents' honor. The very existence of this lecture series (and the GSA) emphasizes the critical impact your institution and your leadership have on the lives of your students, faculty and surrounding community, many of whom are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. I have been proud to support this inclusive event that demonstrates the need for

expanded diversity among Marquette's student body and faculty.

I hope that you will reconsider this ill-advised decision about Dr. O'Brien. It sends a message that does not accurately reflect the inclusivity that is encapsulated in Marquette University's Statement on Human Dignity and Diversity. Further, it can add to the perception of a lack of diversity at Marquette University that has been identified by accrediting organizations.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter. There are ways that Marquette University and Fair Wisconsin Education Fund may work together to address these concerns and build greater understanding between our organizations, communities of faith and the LGBT community.

Robert J. Starshak, M.D.
President, Fair Wisconsin
Education Fund

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Our mission

To inform, engage and empower Wisconsin's LGBT community by providing a professional, independent print and online source for news and commentary, as well as coverage of political and cultural issues.

Born gay

There are people in this world who campaign against homosexuals, calling us sinful and deviant and hell-bound. Some of those people are like the Revs. George Rekers and Ted Haggard, who chose to project their own internalized hatred onto mass numbers of people in order to feel better about the gay feelings they have.

On the other hand, there are people who really are straight and really just have a hard time accepting homosexuals as equals because they know nothing about homosexuality. These people might be drawing misconceptions from the media, hearsay or what have you.

In my experience, I've found that when anti-gay straight people are placed in situations where they must learn about homosexuality and how it works, they become enlightened. For that reason, I am going to use this column as a short walk through the mindset of a gay kid growing up. If you know someone who needs to learn a little about gay people, then forward this to them by mail, e-mail or gift-wrapped, if that's what it takes.

I was 7 years old in 1994 and a comedy movie called "Camp Nowhere" was released co-starring a teenage actor named Andrew Keegan. I saw him on the cover of a teen magazine and thought, "Man, he is gorgeous." I knew I found him attractive, but at 7 years old I wasn't thinking sexually. I just knew that I was mesmerized by him and I wanted to know him and I hoped that he'd like me if we ever met.

I didn't say anything out loud, though, because even that young I understood that boys don't talk about other boys that way. All I knew was that it was acceptable for two girls to call each other beautiful but for two guys to do the same was considered weird, and at 7 years old weird is the last thing you want to be. So I kept my

Opinion

BY ANGEL SEVILLA

mouth shut.

But even then, through no fault of my own, I was already attracted to guys in the same way that a young straight boy might have a crush on his attractive female teacher. I felt that way about guys all the time, and all the time I kept it inside.

I was 12 when I first learned what homosexuality and bisexuality really are. But with no positive gay role models to look up to, I was unfortunately introduced to these two "lifestyles" by the one and only Jerry Springer.

Now looking back, I realize that my source of enlightenment that day was cheap cable programming, but the really sad part is that I had no place else to turn.

Regardless, the episode I watched was one that featured a man who was attracted to another man and at that moment Springer had my complete attention. I had never before that day heard another person verbalize the feelings I had been having my whole life. I realized that day that I am gay.

That's what a gay kid goes through. A childhood with constant questions and confusion; secrets and lies to cover up what he is really feeling. We do not choose to be gay.

I wrote this because if there's a straight person reading this who hasn't met a gay person before, now you've met me. I'm a regular guy just trying to get through life. And as for those who want gay people to "turn back straight," they should know that we were never straight.

So, if you meet one of those gay-hater guys or see one on TV, I urge you to look at him and know that he has no idea what he's talking about.

Something to say? Write managingeditor@wisconsinazette.com.

Catholic Church to obey law

Roman Catholic Church officials in India made a startling statement a few days ago. They said they would henceforth report claims of sexual abuse by clergy to the civil authorities.

The statement was startling not so much because the Catholic Church decided to obey the law, but because it hadn't until now.

As a church that sees itself as divinely instituted, the Roman Catholic Church has always had a strained relationship with civil authorities and has vigorously resisted all governmental attempts to investigate its internal operations.

To maintain its autonomy, the Church has employed a variety of dissimulations, subterfuges and a virtual shell game regarding responsibility. And it has employed an

Abusive priests were seldom punished. At most they were transferred to a different diocese.

extensive panoply of excuses, blaming variously modern sexual liberation doctrines, homosexuals, vaguely specified "enemies of the church" and a hostile press (led by The New York Times) for its current problems.

But the result was that abusive priests were seldom punished. At most they were

transferred to a different diocese, where they could continue their behavior, with no explanation to the old or the new parish of why the change was made.

Some abusive priests were sent off to a supposed treatment (which almost never works) or told to practice prayer and repentance. (How many genuinely repented their behavior is unknown.) Few if any were laicized or defrocked. After all, the Church has a shortage of priests as it is.

This is a widespread phenomenon. In Europe and the United States there has been extensive coverage of claims by youths who say they were sexually abused. Bishops have resigned as a result of questions raised about their handling of the abusive priests.

Finally the Pope has spo-

Opinion

BY PAUL VARNELL

ken out about the issue. Here is what he said: "The greatest persecution of the church does not come from enemies outside the church but is born from the sin inside the church. The church has a profound need to learn on the one hand forgiveness, but also the necessity of justice."

This is a remarkable statement of a new attitude. What we all await now are actions that will give life to these fine sentiments from the pope indicating a fairly complete turnaround – the proof of the pudding.

Send comments to pvarnell@aol.com.

Goodbye – and thanks.

When I first pitched a column to the editor of a gay newspaper in Chicago, I was expecting to write some short, snappy, girl-around-town pieces for a year or two. I thought I'd write about what was going on in the bars, in the conference rooms – I'd pass along the gossip everyone wanted to know.

"Nah," my editor said, after listening a moment. "I don't like that idea. But I like the idea of you writing a column. Just tell your own stories."

"Tell your own stories," he said. And so I did.

For 14 years, I've been telling my stories to readers of gay papers from Washington state to Washington, DC.

I've talked about the struggle to get my dad to accept me as a lesbian; falling in love and breaking up; and, most popularly, I've talked about my dog Max, still barking at 16.

Those stories somehow persuaded readers to tell theirs and share them with me – originally through the

Opinion

BY JENNIFER VANASCO

actual mail (I still have all of those and tried to answer most of them), then e-mail, and now as comments on posted columns, or as commentary on blogs of their own.

One reader, from Oklahoma, asked if he should come out to his parents, even though they were socially conservative. I still wonder how he's doing, though he wrote me about seven years ago.

Another engaged me in a debate about whether there's a place for gays and lesbians in Evangelical churches. He just wrote again recently.

When I still lived in Chicago, I met readers for drinks and for breakfast, sometimes in their homes.

Occasionally, someone on the street would call out to me while I was walking my dog. In my pajamas.

In those days, the days before the Web, writing a column for newspapers felt intimate. People picked up their free paper on the corner and shared it with a cup of coffee. I felt like I was writing for a community – and I could be pretty sure that someone responding to a column had likely read others and knew me pretty well. It was like we were continuing a conversation.

The Web changed life for columnists. It became more important that columns were topical riffs on the news (the Web is fueled by hits and hits are fueled by keywords which are easy to search for). When I started running a Web site myself (I'm the editor of the news site 365gay.com), I started writing columns I wanted to run, things that clarified or put a new spin on the news story of the week.

There were fewer of my own stories. And that made me start to feel like what I was doing, anyone could do. And maybe I should step

Writing a column for newspapers felt intimate.

aside and make room for the new young woman or young man who could.

When the Chicago Free Press closed this spring – a paper that was my editorial home longer than the city was my actual home – the conversation came to an end.

But oh, I'm going to miss you. I'm going to miss your stories. I'm going to miss sharing mine, as if we were friends talking quietly over an afternoon cup of tea. Thanks for being there. And if you ever see me in New York – walking Max, I'm sure in my pajamas – I hope you'll say hello.

Jennifer Vanasco (was) an award-winning columnist. E-mail her at jennifer.vanasco@gmail.com.

Correction

In our last issue, we identified Milwaukee Ballet dancer Marc Petrocci as "out." He is neither out nor gay.

Veterans protest DADT policy in D.C.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Anti-war demonstrator Ida Levine went to Washington, D.C., 33 years ago to levitate the Pentagon.

Last week, Levine cheered on her daughter, Army veteran Amy Levine, who went to Washington, D.C., in an attempt to move Congress to repeal the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

“I couldn’t be more proud of her,” said Ida Levine of New York City. “We both were on the right sides.”

Amy Levine said, “I’m proud of my service. But I can’t be proud of my country until this policy is repealed. It’s bad.”

National Veterans Lobby Day, held May 10-11, brought about 350 veterans to Capitol Hill and the offices of their representatives and senators to protest the ban against openly gay and lesbian servicemembers in the military.

The veterans – gay and straight, their service years

ranging from World War II to the war in Iraq – urged U.S. lawmakers to move to repeal DADT now and not wait for the completion of a Pentagon study, which could take a year.

Meanwhile, a letter-writing campaign sponsored by Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a D.C.-based watchdog group, enlisted high-profile opposition to the ban.

Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of President Harry S. Truman, joined the repeal campaign in early May.

He wrote the president: “While I have no idea where my grandfather would stand on ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ I do know that he admired service and sacrifice. An estimated 66,000 gay and lesbian marines, soldiers, sailors, airmen and coastguardsmen are willingly risking their lives to defend our nation, despite being treated as second-class citizens.

“I would hope that my grandfather would want

his openly gay great-granddaughter and others like her to have the opportunity to serve the country they love with dignity and integrity.”

President Barack Obama, in his State of the Union address in January, pledged, “This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are. It’s the right thing to do.”

However, the administration on April 30 issued a statement deferring to Defense Secretary Robert Gates on the repeal issue. That was the day a letter from Gates to the secretary of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee became public. Gates, in the letter, was urging Congress not to act on repeal before the Pentagon completed its year-long study.

“It is becoming clearer every day that where Truman led, Obama is deferring, kick-



PHOTO: PAT RYAN

Military veterans gather on the steps of the Capitol, where they lobbied May 10-11 for the repeal of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy barring gay and lesbian servicemembers from serving openly. Servicemembers United and the Human Rights Campaign coordinated the event, which drew about 350 vets.

ing repeal down the road – again,” said SLDN’s Aubrey Sarvis. “As a result of the commander in chief’s decision to defer to the defense

secretary’s wishes and timeline, lesbian and gay servicemembers will continue to be treated as second-class citizens and any sense of fairness

may well have been delayed for yet another year, perhaps for another decade.

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What they said!



“I think there are a lot of people who have trouble coming to terms with (same-sex marriage) because they see marriage as traditionally between a man and a woman. But I also know that when couples are committed to each other and love each other that they ought to have the same sort of rights that everyone has.”

Former first lady Laura Bush telling Larry King why she supports same-sex marriage

“I’ve had some friends that are actually homosexual. And, I mean, they know where I stand, and they know that I wouldn’t have them anywhere near my children.”

Samuel “Joe” Wurzelbacher, aka Joe the Plumber, who was catapulted to fame by John McCain during the 2008 presidential race

“I will fight these false reports because I have not engaged in any homosexual behavior whatsoever. I am not gay and never have been.”

Anti-gay crusader George Rekers responding to reports that he spent 10 days in Europe with a young male escort he met on rentboy.com. Rekers, a co-founder of Family Research Council, resigned from the board of the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality.

“While he keeps a low public profile, his fingerprints are on almost every anti-gay effort to demean and dehumanize LGBT people.”

Gay activist Wayne Besen, speaking about George Rekers’ anti-gay career

“It’s weird seeing Hayes play straight. He comes off as wooden and insincere, like he’s trying to hide something, which of course he is.”

Openly gay Newsweek writer Ramin Setoodeh dissecting Sean Hayes’ performance in the Broadway musical “Promises, Promises.”



Obama nominates Kagan for High Court

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

President Barack Obama nominated his solicitor general – former Harvard dean Elena Kagan – to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kagan is likely to be confirmed for the lifetime appointment by the U.S. Senate, which has 59 Democrats, but before that she faces tough questions during confirmation hearings.

Kagan, 50, would be the

youngest justice on the Supreme Court.

She was the first female dean of Harvard Law School and has a reputation as a facilitator, a person who can bring people of opposing or competing views together.

“Elena is widely regarded as one of the best legal minds of her generation – earning praise from across the ideological spectrum throughout her career,” Obama stated. “Above all, she is a trailblazer. She wasn’t just the first woman to serve as dean

of Harvard Law School – she was one of its most beloved and successful leaders, building a reputation for openness to other viewpoints and skill in working with others to build consensus.”

The nomination drew praise from national LGBT organizations.

“The U.S. Supreme Court decides cases that intimately affect the lives of all Americans,” said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign. “We are confident that Elena Kagan

has a demonstrated understanding and commitment to protecting the liberty and equality of all Americans, including LGBT Americans.”

“Her legal background and experience are impressive. She has been a trailblazer in her profession and a distinguished legal scholar for many years,” said Kevin Cathcart of Lambda Legal.

Kagan has worked in judicial, legislative and executive branches of the federal government. But she has not served as a judge, and

Republican senators have raised concerns about her lack of experience on the bench.

Her supporters, however, countered that William H. Rehnquist and Lewis F. Powell Jr. also had not served as judges before their appointments to the Court in 1972.

Kagan would be the fourth woman to serve on the Court. The others are retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and current Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor.

Kagan is not married. She was born in New York City, earned a bachelor’s degree from Princeton, a master’s from Oxford and a law degree from Harvard.

As the dean of that law school, she continued a policy barring military recruitment on campus because the Armed Forces discriminates against gays and lesbians, violating the school’s anti-discrimination policy, according to Kagan.

– AP contributed to this report

CHAZ BONO GRANTED NAME, GENDER CHANGE

A judge recently granted a request to change the name and legally designated gender of 41-year-old writer, activist and transgender reality TV star Chaz Bono.

Bono, born to Sonny Bono and Cher, had surgery last year.

Bono was represented in court by attorney Kristina Wertz of the Transgender Law Center. Wertz said the judge’s order is an important step in Bono’s transition and will allow him to reflect his new identity on a variety of official documents.

“Chaz couldn’t be happier,” Wertz said in a statement.

OAKLAND LIFTS CENTURY-OLD BAN ON CROSS-DRESSING

The Oakland City Council moved to strike a 130-year-old ordinance that bans cross-dressing in public.

The council voted 7-0 to remove the ban from the city’s municipal code. A sec-

ond vote, which is needed to seal the repeal, was scheduled for May 18, as WiG went to press.

The ordinance, adopted in 1879, bans people from dressing “in the attire of a person of the opposite sex.”

Officials said the law is little known and never enforced.

But Rebecca Kaplan, the council member who proposed the repeal, said such laws have a history of being used as tools of oppression against the LGBT community.

LARGEST LUTHERAN GROUP REINSTATING GAY MINISTERS

The gay Atlanta pastor and his partner who have been at the center of a battle over the treatment of gay clergy by America’s largest Lutheran denomination are being reinstated to its clergy roster.

The Rev. Bradley Schmeling and his partner, the Rev. Darin Easler, have been approved for reinstatement, the Chicago-based Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

said in a news release. The approval came roughly eight months after the denomination voted to allow gays and lesbians in committed relationships to serve as clergy, and just weeks after the ELCA’s church council officially revised the church’s policy on gay ministers.

“I’m grateful that this journey has come full circle and that the church has changed its policy,” Schmeling said.

The reinstatement will become effective “once the paperwork has been filed,” which should happen in the coming days or weeks, he said.

COURT BACKS LESBIAN’S RIGHT TO SEEK VISITATION

New York’s top court ruled recently that a woman whose lesbian partner gave birth following their civil union in Vermont has parental rights, including visitation.

The Court of Appeals was divided 4-3 in upholding its 19-year-old precedent that biological connection or

adoption generally establishes those rights under state law.

But all seven judges agreed that the woman has standing to claim visitation rights in New York based on recognition of other states’ laws. The decision allows the woman, identified only as Debra H., to seek visitation and shared custody at a court hearing on what would be in the child’s best interests.

ACLU-NJ JOINS GAY MARRIAGE LAWSUIT

The American Civil Liberties Union has joined a lawsuit arguing that same-sex couples don’t have full rights under New Jersey’s civil unions law.

The ACLU’s New Jersey chapter said New Jersey’s law “has failed to fulfill the actual promise of equality.”

In 2006, the state Supreme Court ruled that gay couples deserve equal treatment, but

left the details up to the state Legislature. It responded by legalizing civil unions.

Gay rights groups continued to seek full marriage rights, but in January the state Senate defeated a bill to legalize gay marriage.

Gay couples then returned to court, claiming the state has not complied with the 2006 ruling.

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**NJ SCHOOL BANS
BOOK ON GAYS**

A New Jersey school board removed a book on gay youth from a school library because it contains graphic content. The state's largest gay rights group said it appears the board acted appropriately.

In March, a group of citizens asked for three books about gays to be removed from the Rancocas Valley High School library.

Superintendent Michael Moskalski said the critics seemed to be politically motivated, but their concerns triggered a district process for evaluating contested books.

School officials formed a study committee, which recommended keeping two of the books in question but removing "Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology," a book that won the School Library Journal's Adult Books for High School Students award in 2001.

The superintendent said the focus was on whether the anthology is obscene. It includes graphic language and an etching of Boy Scouts watching two men have sex.

The school board unanimously agreed to remove the book from the library.

**LINGLE 'UP IN
THE AIR' ON CIVIL
UNIONS**

Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle says "it's up in the air" whether she will veto or allow same-sex civil unions to become law.

Lingle said she will take her time before she decides.

The Republican governor plans to meet face-to-face with community leaders, weigh the recommendations of her policy advisers and review thousands of e-mails before she makes up her mind.

Lingle has until July 6 to veto the bill.

— from AP and WiG reports



Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle

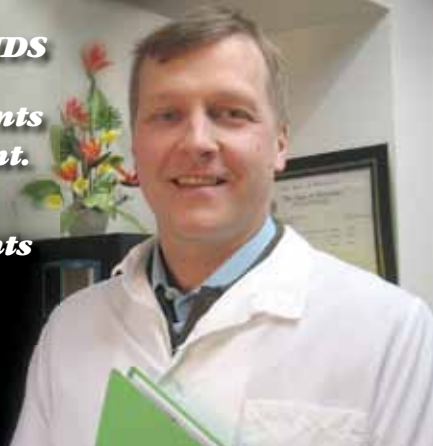
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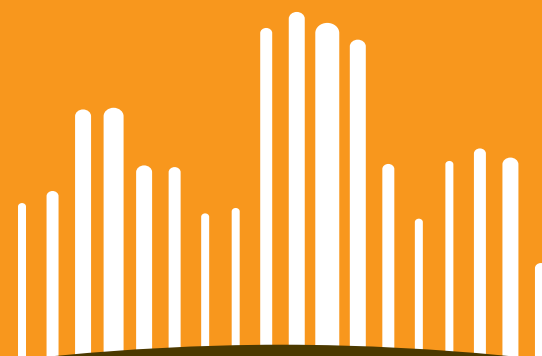
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Lithuania gay Pride march draws protesters

AP Report

Opponents of Lithuania's first gay Pride parade threw smoke bombs and tried to break through a barrier May 8, but were stopped by police firing tear gas.

Later, protesters threw rocks and street signs at security forces and two Lithuanian lawmakers were detained after trying to climb the barrier.

About 400 people took part in the two-hour march – dubbed "For Equality" – in a sealed-off area in down-

town Vilnius. Holding large rainbow flags and dancing to music blaring from loudspeakers, they walked along a road near the Neris river.

Participants included many foreigners, diplomats and members of the European Parliament.

"We are here because we believe ... in a just society. Labels are for filing, for clothing, not for people. And we are here today to remove labels from people," said Birgitta Ohlsson, Sweden's minister for European Union

affairs.

Some 800 police, some on horses, were mobilized to provide security and keep at bay more than 1,000 demonstrators.

Protesters carried crosses and signs and shouted insults at rally participants. A Catholic Mass at the nearby national cathedral was held to pray for gays.

"Sweden has already wiped out traditional families. Now they came over here to tell us how to live, how to think and who to sleep

with. Lithuania will not allow such perversions," said Jonas Kempinkas, who walked from the cathedral to the protest holding a huge cross.

Police officials said 19 people were detained and one officer slightly injured. The two lawmakers have been released.

It was the first gay Pride event in Lithuania, a largely Catholic nation of 3.4 million people that acquired independence from the Soviet Union two decades ago.

"There were storm clouds

this morning, but now the sun shines and we see a rainbow in the sky and on the ground. I hope this peaceful parade will show the Lithuanian people that there is nothing shameful or frightening," said Vladimir Simonko, a leader in Lithuania's gay community. He said the parade would be held again next year.

The march triggered a wave of criticism, and a recent poll showed that nearly three-quarters of the population was against holding it in the center of the

capital.

Earlier in the day, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the office of a human rights organization – Youth for Tolerance – that helped organize the event. The device failed to ignite, and no one was injured.

The Pride parade, originally allowed by the city council, was prohibited by a court on security concerns, but an appeals court overturned the ban two days later.

Join the WiG community on Facebook.

Brazil bishop says kids are 'spontaneously homosexual'

From AP and WiG

A Brazilian archbishop said adolescents are "spontaneously homosexual" and in need of guidance, while society at large is pedophile.

Archbishop Dadeus Grings – a conservative priest who has made controversial statements in the past – told the O Globo newspaper at a Brazilian bishops' conference that society's woes are being reflected in the sex abuse scandal enveloping the Roman Catholic Church.

"Society today is pedophile, that is the problem. So, people easily fall into it. And the fact it is denounced is a good sign," Grings told O Globo.

The comments come as the church is under fire for a sex abuse scandal touching all corners of the globe – and three weeks after Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the No. 2 official at the Vatican, said at a news conference in Chile that the sex scandals were linked to homosexuality and not celibacy among priests.

There have been several cases of priests allegedly abusing children that have surfaced in Brazil in recent months.

Father Geraldo Martins, a spokesman for the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, said Grings would

not be made available to elaborate on his comments.

Martins said he could not confirm the accuracy of the newspaper report, because he said Grings did not make the comments during a press conference, but on the sidelines of the gathering.

Grings is the archbishop of the Porto Alegre diocese, one of the largest in Brazil, which has more Catholics than any other nation. He also serves as the chancellor of the Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Grings denounced the abuse within the church, but he said internal punishment of priests guilty of abuse was sufficient and that police should not be involved.

"For the church to go and accuse its own sons would be a little strange," he said.

The archbishop also said it was important to help children avoid homosexuality.

"We know that the adolescent is spontaneously homosexual. Boys play with boys, girls play with girls," he said. "If there is no proper guidance, this sticks. The question is – how are we going to educate our children to use a sexuality that is human and suitable?"

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'This is very damaging to our image'

Marquette from I

democratic reputation and could potentially harm their career prospects.

"Marquette has broken the principles of academic freedom and professional collegiality and damaged the university's own stature as an institution of higher education," wrote Evelyn Nakano Glenn, president of the American Sociological Association, in a letter calling on Wild to reverse his decision. "Marquette University appears to have violated its own non-discrimination policy as well as the principles of free inquiry that govern all great universities."

"This is very damaging to our image," said Sharon Chubbuck, professor of education at Marquette. "There's always a tension between being a Catholic institution and a university, but the search for truth cannot be afraid of any knowledge that might be uncovered."

Nancy Snow, professor of philosophy at Marquette and an out lesbian, said the faculty's resolution condemning Wild should have gone much further. Snow and her partner took O'Brien house-hunting in Shorewood following one of her trips to Milwaukee to interview for the job.

Snow said she was ecstatic when she learned April 17 that O'Brien had been offered the position. "When

I heard the offer had been withdrawn, I was devastated," she said.

Although Wild assured students May 11 that "this decision is not about donor or outside influence," O'Brien contradicted that claim in an interview with the Seattle University Spectator.

"I think (Wild) is responding to people who are concerned with what I represent," she told the newspaper. O'Brien said Wild called her to say that he feared her appointment would receive "too much distraction from people external to the university who did not support my appointment."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listecki was the

most important external figure behind Wild's decision to reverse the offer to O'Brien. Listecki is a hard-line Vatican activist who spoke out against Notre Dame University last year for inviting President Barack Obama to speak there.

"This confirms our suspicions of corruption at the highest levels of the decision-making process," Snow said in a posting on Facebook.

Wild has refused to discuss Listecki's role in the decision, saying only that the archbishop "can speak for himself."

Wild now says the university will choose a new dean internally. As of press time, O'Brien had not decided whether to seek legal action against Marquette.



PHOTO: DAN ZAITZ

Nancy Snow, professor of philosophy at Marquette, says the faculty's resolution condemning Wild should have gone much further.

'He knew exactly what he was doing.'

Slaying from I

North 23rd Street, just south of North Avenue. He claimed a fight broke out after he realized that Larkin was "a man" and that he accidentally shot her as they wrestled for his gun.

Police arrested Olacirequi when he returned to the crime scene to look for his cell phone.

Williams and other mourners disputed Olacirequi's story. "To shoot her three times — and in the head — he knew exactly what he was doing," said Larkin's longtime friend Lottisha Williams. "We want justice."

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Diverse and Resilient and FORGE, a Milwaukee-based transgender social support organization, have called for prosecutors to "consider the appropriateness of using Wisconsin's hate-crime penalty enhancer in this case." Such charges mandate stiffer penalties for hate-motivated crimes targeting members of specific populations.

State law provides for hate-crime charges when a perpetrator "intentionally selects the (victim) in whole or in part because of the race, religion,

color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry." The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in October 2009, also applies federal hate-crime law to crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

Although hate-crime charges have been filed in LGBT cases in Madison and other Wisconsin jurisdictions, they have never been sought in Milwaukee County.

"This case is clearly, undeniably, a hate-motivated crime," said Michael Munson of FORGE. "We definitely want the district attorney's office to treat this as a hate crime."

According to Munson, Larkin fits the profile of the majority of transgender people who are murdered. They are mostly African-American transwomen, usually in their 20s and 30s, he said. Violent attacks against transgenders are often marked by "overkill," that is, repeated stabbing and shooting as well as genital mutilation.

A large number of transgender women work in the sex

trade, since many cannot find stable employment, Munson said. But at Larkin's emotional May 14 funeral service, several friends said she was really looking for a ride the night she encountered Olacirequi.

"She made a couple of calls looking for a ride," Williams said. "If she would have made more calls, she would still be here."

One friend who spoke at the funeral said he was among those contacted by Larkin for a ride on the night of May 7. "If I'd known, I would have picked you up," he said, looking down at her casket, his voice trembling. "I'm so sorry."

Larkin was active in Milwaukee's transgender community. She was a member of Diverse and Resilient's group SHEBA, an acronym for Sisters Helping Each Other Battle AIDS, for at least four years, according to Brenda Coley, the organization's director of adult services.

Coley said she was so devastated that she had to leave work when she heard the news of Larkin's death.

"I had talked with her two weeks before," Coley said. "She had just called to say hello

and tell me she was planning to come back to SHEBA on a more regular basis. She was a very caring person and was always in a good mood, always a delight to be around."

Coley and other friends expressed resentment at the mainstream media for referring to Larkin as "a man" and as "he" in accounts of her death.

"That's a very disrespectful way to acknowledge her life," Coley said. "She considered herself female. She considered herself a transgender woman. She was not a drag queen. This is who she was 24 hours a day."

"It does not matter what was on her driver's license — what matters is how she identified and how people knew and loved her," Munson said.



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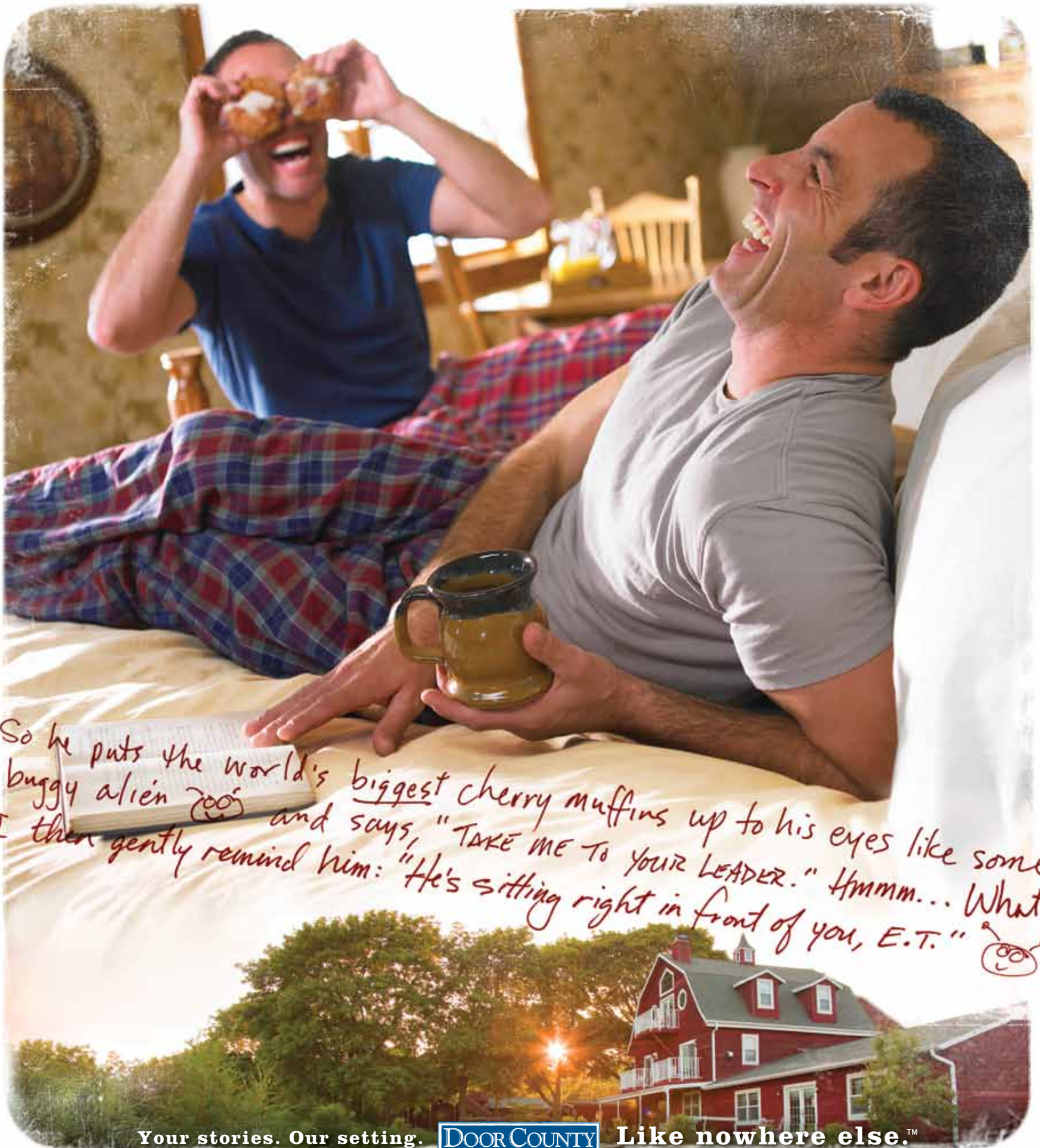
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Never 'Enough'

An interview with Melissa Ferrick

By Gregg Shapiro
Staff writer

To reinforce the fact that lesbians do have a sly sense of humor, singer/songwriter Melissa Ferrick titled her excellent new disc of cover tunes "Enough About Me" (Right On). Especially funny is that the disc closes with a pair of her own tunes. But before that, Ferrick performs respectful renditions of songs by Aimee Mann ("Deathly"), The Postal Service ("Such Great Heights"), Radiohead ("Creep"), Barenaked Ladies ("Call And Answer"), Patty Griffin ("Moses") and U2 ("One"), among others. She puts her distinctive mark on each and every one. I spoke with Ferrick at the time of the disc's release.

Gregg Shapiro: Did the cover of Bush's "Glycerine" on your "Goodbye Youth" disc have anything to do with doing an album with all covers? Or had that been percolating for a while?

Melissa Ferrick: I think it's both, actually. ...The response to "Glycerine" was so overwhelming for me. ... That song reached people that I don't normally reach. ...A lot of guys, straight guys ... were like "I love this version. Who is this girl?" The idea to do a whole album of covers had been brewing for a little while. My goal at the beginning was to do a double record of all male singer/songwriters (and) all female singer/songwriters that I love, and call one side "For the boys" and the other side "For the girls."

GS: Do you approach better-known songs such as U2's "One" and Radiohead's "Creep" differently than less well-known songs, such as McKenna's "How To Be Righteous"?

MF: I don't know if I do. ...I want them to sound different, I want to interpret them. For "One," changing the time

Interview

WIGOUT

signature and putting it in six rather than in four automatically made it sound different. ... I thought, just do it like a sad song. I feel that it is a sad song. ...It's more of a love song to the world, rather than to a person, with the economy and everything. As far as the other (less recognizable) songs, sure,

ON STAGE

Lesbian folk-rocker Melissa Ferrick performs on the Rainbow Stage at PrideFest at 11 p.m. June 12.

"How to be Righteous" was easy... I think that I played just a little bit faster, and just put a beat behind it. I don't think that it's that much of a stretch. "Creep" was the song that I did right before "Moses" in the same evening. I called Bryna (Gootkind, Ferrick's manager) and said, "I don't know what to do. I feel like I've gone too far and I can't get back to when this song was cool, when it sounded good." Then I went online to search my name on YouTube. ...In the top 10 most-watched videos was me playing "Creep" with Ann Heaton. ...It was one of the most watched videos and everyone in the audience is singing along. I thought, "This is dumb. I should just do 'Creep,'" so I went upstairs and did it. It's actually my favorite one.

GS: All the songs are great choices and you make each one your own, even "Creep" and "Deathly." But the Barenaked Ladies' tune "Call and Answer"

really took me by surprise, because it doesn't seem like a Melissa Ferrick song.

MF: Yeah ...I love that band, I have always loved them. I'm also incredibly happy with how that came out, because it stretches me. There're no acoustic guitars on the song, it's all electric. The loops are crazy. And I did all the background vocals. ...I just wanted it to be very swirly and beautiful. ... It sounds so different than their version. I was thinking of what songs I wanted to do, and Bryna said, "Just think about songs that you've always really loved." And I thought about that song. I remember being in Seattle, in a car with a guy from Atlantic Records. ...It must have been '94 or '95. ...This guy from the label was driving me (to a radio station) and he said, "I want to play you this band, they're from Canada, they're called the Barenaked Ladies and I just signed them." And he put the cassette in. ...I just loved the song.

GS: As it turns out, it's not really a case of "enough about me" because you close the disc with a couple of your own songs.

MF: I know. Yes, that's my sense of humor (laughs). I thought that you would appreciate that (laughs).

GS: Why did you choose "Bad Habbit" and "Hypocrite" from "Goodbye Youth"?

MF: ...They're two of my favorites. I'm pretty proud of a lot of the songs on that record. I think that "John's Field" is right up there, as well as "When Thom Sings" (Lake Effect Snow). "Hypocrite" had literally been sitting in my studio for a year, done. ...It had the drive in it I had always heard in my head... I wanted my fans to hear what I heard. ...And "Bad Habbit," that was an homage to Lucinda Williams. ... I am a big fan of her work. So, I wanted to do that kind of



COURTESY PHOTO

"The idea to do a whole album of covers had been brewing for a little while," says Melissa Ferrick of her latest release "Enough About Me."

"Ball and Chain" song with that real loose shuffle feel behind it. ...I love the way that it came out.

GS: In addition to your regular tour dates, you are also playing PrideFest in Milwaukee on June 12. Do you regularly do Pride festivals or is this a

new thing?

MF: No. I always hope to, because, for a lot of queer artists, I think June is a saving grace for us. It's not quite festival season yet and you can count on June to have the opportunity to travel ... see and celebrate gay Pride with

other communities. ...Those queer dollars really help fund me through the summer, so I am able to go do festivals where you are playing for the exposure. With gay Pride ... they already know who I am. I'm just looking to celebrate with them.

Sculpture in the grass: The Lynden Sculpture Garden

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

Everyone has a public and a private face. The person you are at home is a little different from the one on the town. Inviting someone into your abode can be a gracious revelation of self, which comes though in our personality, actions and also the stuff we surround ourselves with.

Art is particularly illuminating in this respect. If you find yourself accumulating a number of pieces – maybe something approaching a collection, whether intentional or not, it can reveal interests that usually go unnoticed. Each work in your home has its memories and meanings. They all speak individually, but as a collection they take a louder voice.

The Lynden Sculpture Garden, which will have its grand opening May 30, is a real treat in this respect. Known more commonly as the Bradley Sculpture Garden, it has been open occasionally in the summer as part of the Milwaukee Art Museum's programming. Located on the grounds of the former home of philanthropists Harry and Peg Bradley, the garden's exterior is not ostentatious. It's marked by a small plaque reading "LYNDEN. Harry L Bradley," and it's enclosed by a weatherworn fence on Brown Deer Road in River Hills. Inside the gate, the home and other buildings



PHOTO: RICK EBBERS/MCDILL DESIGN

Dame Barbara Hepworth, Conversations with Magic Stones, 1973. Courtesy of Bowness, Hepworth Estate.

congregate together, leaving ample space in the back for roaming through monumental sculpture.

The garden is a lovely combination of artistic time capsule, family home and comfortably elegant parkland. The engaging sculptures were chosen by the late Peg Bradley, one of Milwaukee's great art collectors. Dotted across the estate, which spans 40 acres, are more than 50 large-scale modernist sculptures. The playful and predominantly geometric and abstract works are situated on lush, rolling lawns, accented by clumps of fragrant foliage and set around a sparkling man-made pond.

Sculptures include works

by some prominent names in 20th-century art, including Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Mark di Suvero. Floating sculptures by Marta Pan take advantage of the watery aspects of the landscape design. Together the works represent a satisfying slice of modernist sculptural practice from the 1960s and 1970s. They are set off beautifully, and many of the locations for the sculptures were chosen by Peg Bradley herself, either independently or in consultation with the artist.

There are no paths in the sculpture garden. Once you leave the terrace, it's up to you to choose your own. This creates a tremendous

sense of freedom, as well as greater engagement with the sculptures.

Meander from one to another, walk fully around each, take the time to explore. This opportunity is often missed in museum settings, which tend to be carefully regulated by the restrictions of walls and lighting situations.

That is not to say that the Lynden will lack in educational resources or direction. Docent-led tours will be available by appointment and organized activities, including summer arts camps for kids, are scheduled. Additional events will include exhibitions in the home, which is also available for meetings

and receptions.

The inaugural exhibition, *Inside/Outside: Linda Wervey Vitamvas and Kevin Giese*, will open on June 27 in a former sitting room. The formal dining room will soon be filled once again with its original furnishings, including an Isamu Noguchi sculpture.

The connection to the past is strong throughout this place, but there are definite contemporary interests at work. Structural changes have been made to the home and grounds in the quest for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, with modifications such as installing a geothermal heating system inside and pervious asphalt pave-

ment outdoors. Old architectural elements have been relocated and reused, and the indoor swimming pool has been rechristened as the reservoir for the building's sprinkler system.

These changes, however, are largely invisible. What visitors will experience most is the juxtaposition of art and nature.

The grand opening of The Lynden Sculpture Garden is from noon to 5 p.m. May 30. Admission is \$5; children under 6 are admitted free with an adult.

Artwatch
DEBRA BREHMER

The Wisconsin Triennial opens May 21 with a 6:30 to 9 p.m. reception at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. This show, which remains through Aug. 15, presents some crème de la crème state art producers.

About 480 individuals applied. The 42 who were chosen represent the vagrant mood of the times as well as the divergent interests of

the three judges and their desire to curate a well-rounded survey. Decisions of who is in and who is out generally stem from informed, careful, thoughtful choice as well as some whim, personal connections and divine intervention. Like the Whitney Biennial in New York, regional squabbling may ensue regarding the choices and mood of the show.

From a cursory glance at the list, this looks to be an exceptional year. There are more young artists included, even a handful of graduate students. Overall, the statistics are weighted toward

Madison, with 16 artists from the home borough. There are 11 Milwaukee artists and 15 from the remainder of the state. There are 19 women out of the total 42.

I think it's safe to say that this Triennial will reflect how we have passed through the transitional stage of "inter-media," or breaking down the categorical boundaries of art making. The incorporation of video or sound, the use of odd materials, the departure from formalism and narrative, the ideas of institutional critique that bring a heightened awareness to how the space affects and interacts

with the art and audience, ethnographic interests, the blending of art and science practices, indexical work that uses statistics and analysis as means of presentation – all of this has become less self-conscious and more settled.

Out of this leveling, we are even beginning to see a return to craft and the "formal" aspects of art making blended into the newer modes of presentation and installation. A new tactility is in the air. People are making things again, but augmenting them with electronic support. I may be too optimistic, but I suspect this Triennial

marks a more exciting and enticing era in art thought and practice than we have seen in a long time.

Who will I be looking for? There are way too many people to name, so I will focus on a few newcomers.

Claire Stigliani, a grad student at UW-Madison, aligns in spirit with Kiki Smith and in thought with post-feminism. Stigliani uses mixed media to render fables, female characters and tableau with girls and wolves and such.

Melissa Cooke, another grad student in Madison, makes big, beautiful graphite drawings of distorted

faces. Eduardo J. Villanueva, who received his art degree from UW-Milwaukee and is also in grad school at Madison, seems to be concocting a large installation/mural for the Triennial. Sofie Arnold, also affiliated with UW-Madison, makes geometric etchings that speak of her background in architecture. Recent Northern Illinois University grad Tom Berenz makes very skilled, realist paintings of piles of building rubble.

Check out the scene at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

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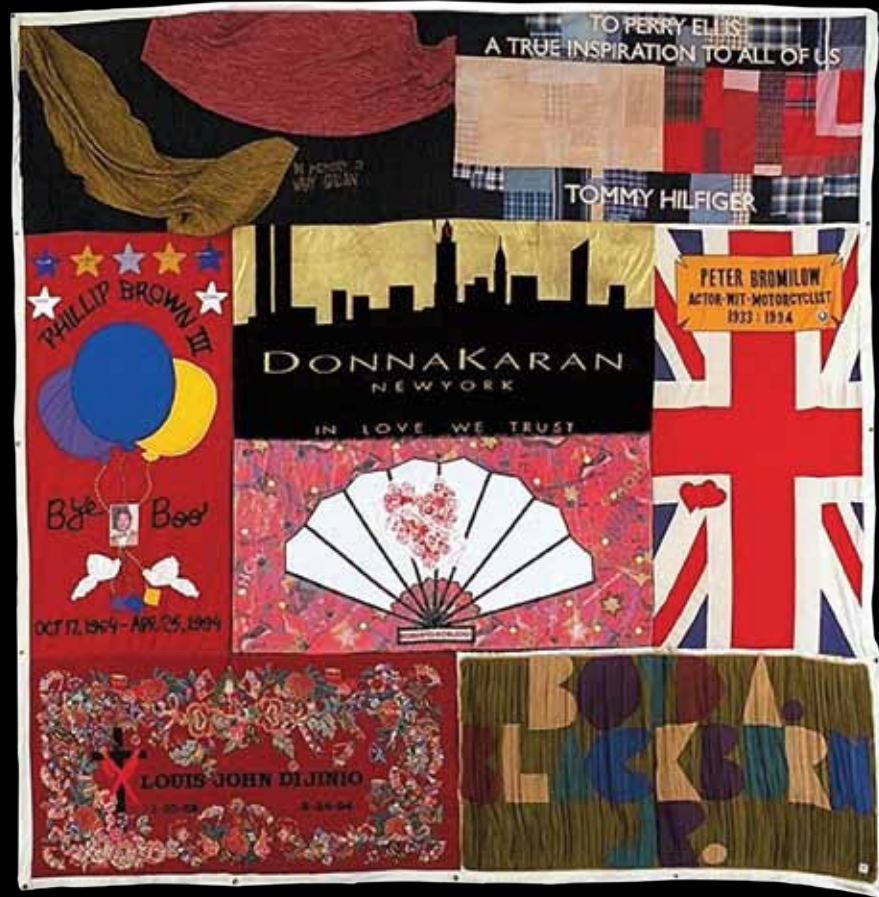


Photo courtesy of The NAMES Project Foundation | AIDS Memorial Quilt

HONOR THE LIVES OF THOSE LOST TO AIDS. Nine specially selected quilts on view at the Milwaukee Art Museum show the contributions of fashion designers Dolce & Gabbana, Versace, Ralph Lauren and Isaac Mizrahi, among others, to the largest community folk art project in the world. Also on view, the original quilt the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin designed in 1987.

This special exhibition is open to the public; Museum admission is not required.

The Milwaukee Art Museum's presentation of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is supported by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.



Making 'Rent'

Theater

Review

By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing writer

"I am so excited about this," says Donna Drake as she slowly pushes open the doors to the Cabot Theater at the Broadway Theater Center in the Third Ward. "We are doing things in this theater that we've never done before."

Once inside, a quick view confirms the New York actor/director's claims

Drake, the director of the Skylight Opera's season finale "Rent," has created a brave new and different world within these walls. She's brought to life the East Village of New York City circa 1989.

The stage has been converted into a multi-level steel tenement structure with stairs coming up both sides and a connecting bridge.

ON STAGE

"Rent" runs May 21 through June 20 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. For tickets, call 414-291-7800 or visit www.skylightopera.com.

There are crew members everywhere working on the set, testing lights and checking sound.

This "rock opera" has the street cred and the commercial track record to continue the crossover appeal that has drawn audiences of all ages since its debut in 1996. Based on Giacomo Puccini's 1986 opera "La Boheme," "Rent's" rise to fame and fortune off-stage is as much a part of the show's iconic status as its classically based storyline.

The show's creator, composer and lyricist Jonathan Larson, took his characters from the community of poor,

starving artists who populate "La Boheme," some of them suffering from tuberculosis. One hundred years later, this group of poor starving artists now deals with the onslaught of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. While Puccini's artists were poets, painters, singers and musicians, Larson's characters, all with HIV/AIDS, include an exotic dancer, a gay philosophy professor and a gay drag queen, among others.

Literally hours before "Rent" opened off Broadway in January 1996, Larson died suddenly of an undiagnosed aortic aneurysm. He never lived to see the enormous success of his work, which went on to win a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award after moving to Broadway for a long run.

"I'm so impressed with the bravery of the Skylight. I have not censored anything (in this production) and the Skylight has supported that," says Drake, who lives on Manhattan's Upper West side



COURTESY PHOTO

"Rent"

with her female partner of three years. "I'm absolutely fearless. If I make people uncomfortable watching this show, then good. Don't be afraid of it. Embrace it."

Drake previously directed "Smokey Joe's Café" and "Blues in the Night" for Skylight. But she's been waiting for years to direct "Rent."

Drake is passionate discussing this show and its messages. She becomes more animated (read: louder) amid the din of the construction in the theater and the "Rent" band rehearsing with music director Jamie Johns above in the Skylight bar. As she emphatically states, "Rent" is still as vital and critical today as it was when it first opened in the mid-1990s.

"People are still living with AIDS and people only politely tolerate gays," she points out. "It breaks my heart. We need to keep putting it out there."

The Skylight has partnered with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

'Don't be afraid of it. Embrace it.'

(ARCW) for "Rent" and will donate proceeds from the May 23 performance to the organization.

Drake knows all too well about the ravages of HIV/AIDS. She's lost many friends over the years, including the mentor who changed her life, director and choreographer Michael Bennett. Drake was just 19 years old, fresh off the bus from her native Columbia, S.C., when she ended up in a workshop Bennett was conducting about the lives of Broadway dancers. This workshop would become the show that changed theater – and Drake's life: "A Chorus Line."

"I learned a lot from Michael," she recalls. "I

learned the basics about the theater, especially truth and integrity, and that has stayed with me."

Another part of what she's learned from the legendary director is to share the spotlight, in this case with the Skylight team she's been working with for the past year: Jason Fassl (lighting designer), Holly Payne (costume designer) and Lisa Schlenker (set designer).

"The four of us are doing our own take" on "Rent," she says. For example, characters will look different from their original Broadway counterparts, from casting to costumes.

But one aspect of "Rent" that remains the same is the humanity and the emotions of the show, Drake says. "Women, black people, gay people are still minorities. But we're all the same. We all share the same heart."

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Tournament returns to PrideFest

By Lucky Tomaszek

Staff writer

After a 13-year absence, Milwaukee PrideFest will once again host a volleyball tournament.

The event was an annual PrideFest tradition for many years before "it fell through the cracks," said Richard Goldberg, president of Milwaukee GAMMA. His organization, which began sponsoring the tournament more than a decade ago, will co-sponsor this year's event with the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association.

Volleyball has always been a popular activity at PrideFest, with open volleyball games taking place even during non-tournament weeks, Goldberg said.

Twelve teams will participate in the two-day tournament, to be held in the Health and Wellness area on the PrideFest grounds. The games begin June 12 with

To register for the PrideFest Volleyball Tournament, contact Richard Goldberg at 414-530-1886 or go to www.milwaukeegamma.com or www.milwaueegayvolleyball.com.

pool play to determine tournament seeding. The entire tournament is co-ed, and teams can have any combination of men and women.

On June 13, there will be a double-elimination tournament.

Registration for the tournament opened May 10 and will remain open until all team slots are full. The cost of \$200 per team includes a three-day pass to PrideFest for up to six team members.

The winning team will be awarded a trophy, and every

member will receive a free one-year membership to Milwaukee GAMMA.

PrideFest organizers are excited about the tournament's return. "(The tournament) has been missed for many years," said PrideFest board president Scott Gunkel. "(It's) wonderful to see GAMMA and the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association working together to develop the tournament."

According to Gunkel, this is just the beginning for athletic events at PrideFest. Next year's PrideFest will feature several sporting events, including softball and soccer.

For festival-goers who have been enjoying the open-play volleyball at PrideFest for the last several years, there is still time slated on the courts for the public to pick up a game after the tournament ends at 3:45 p.m. each day.



PHOTOS: MAX THOMSEN
Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association players take to the net last November as the group's first season got underway.



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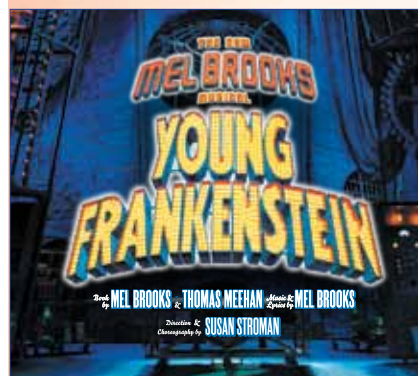
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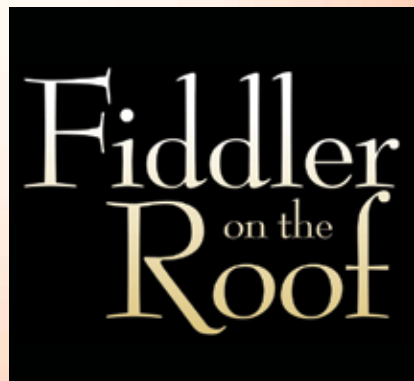
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BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA
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Knockin' 'em back in Kohler

By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing writer

You don't have to wait until October or travel to Munich to enjoy a beer festival. For three days at the end of May, beer lovers can sample beers from more than 30 national and Wisconsin-based breweries at the 2nd annual Kohler Festival of Beer held in Kohler, Wis.

To properly kick off the festival, the folks in Kohler will be using the same type of opening ceremony fanfare as their brewmeister brethren in Germany, including a Friday night Tapping Party.

"We're going to take a mallet and put a spigot into a barrel of beer that was specially brewed that morning for the event," says beverage manager Teo Zagroba. The "kick off" barrel comes courtesy of Central Waters Brewery, a solar-powered green facility based in Amherst (near Stevens Point).

With demonstrations, food and beer pairings, and beer tastings even at breakfast (called Eggs & Kegs), the festival offers beer-related activities for everyone from the most die-hard aficionado to those just interested in learning about Wisconsin's favorite "liquid crop."

For the southpaws, there's Left Hand Brewery from Longmont, Colo. (OK, right-handers can try this beer as well). Left Hand will bring its Milk Stout, poured directly

The 2nd annual Kohler Festival of Beer runs May 28-30 in Kohler. For more information, call 800-344-2838 or visit www.destinationkohler.com.

out of the "moo-mobile" – a Chevy HHR that features tapping lines pouring beer out of the back. Chicago's Goose Island will be on hand, along with Keweenaw Brewing Company from Upper Michigan, which is sold only in cans. Madison's Great Dane Brewing Company will offer specialty beers and Sprecher Brewery of Milwaukee will feature a new red ale.

Along with all the beverages will be plenty of food and special events. A new festival addition this year is "Shorts and Chefs."

Twenty chefs from regional restaurants will compete with each another, armed with individual charcoal fire grills – and summer shorts – to cook their specialties. Each cooking station will be paired with a brewery, and proceeds from the sales will benefit the Camo Quilt Project, which makes and distributes camouflage quilts to military personnel.

"The chefs really go all out for this one," says Kohler director of culinary arts Ulrich Koberstein. "There's a

healthy rivalry as they try to outdo each other."

For those who like a multi-course meal with their beer, another new addition is the Four Course Beer Luncheon, featured on Saturday at the American Club's Wisconsin Room. The featured chef is from Bon Appétit magazine. Central Waters beers will be featured at this luncheon, including its seasonal release Bourbon Barrel Barleywine.

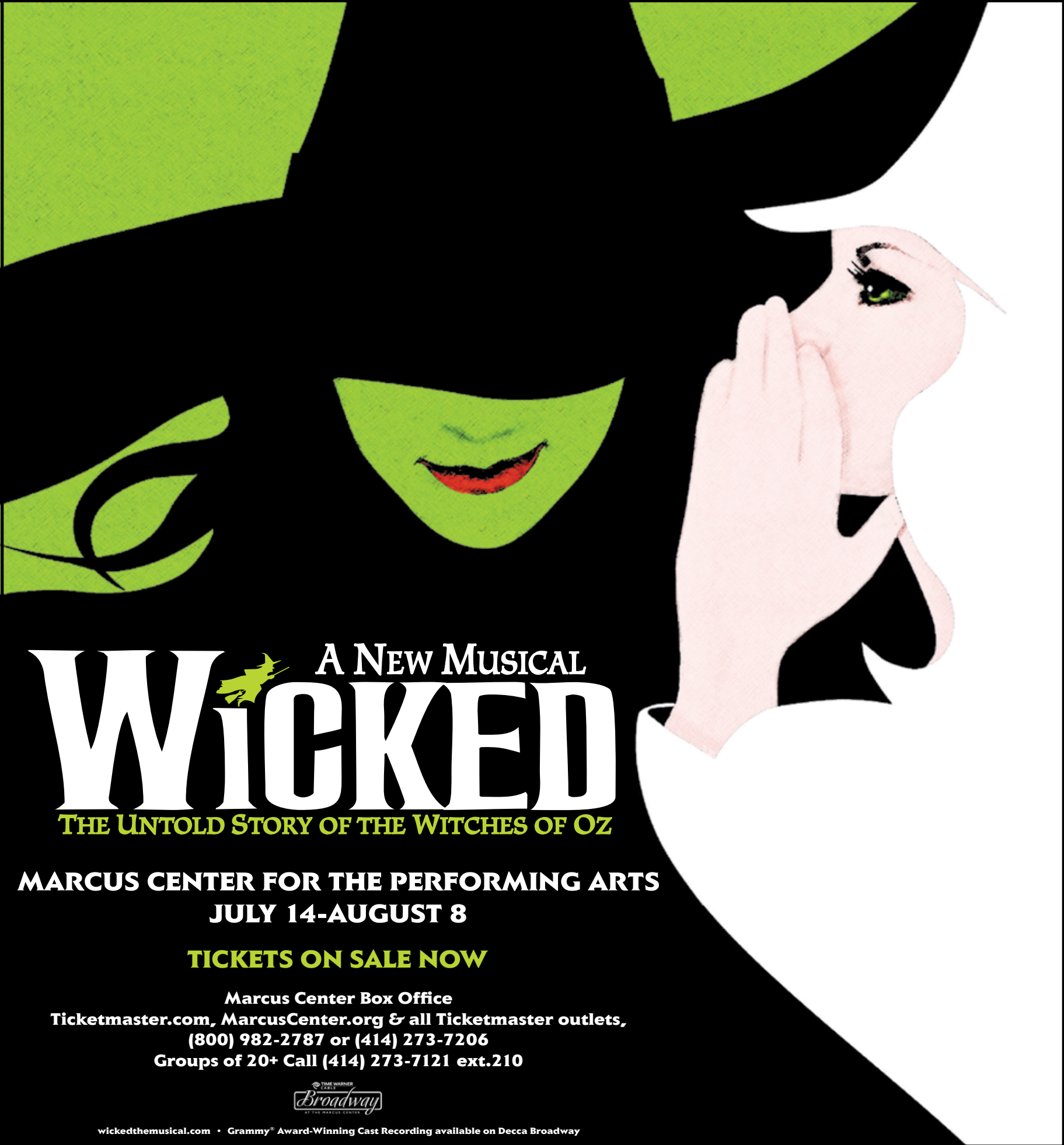
Given Kohler's well-known Craverie Chocolatier Café confections, it's not surprising there are pairings of beer and chocolate. With seven lines of chocolate – and 8 to 12 flavors per line – the pairings are endless. "Some of the sweeter, chocolate-flavored beers work well here," Koberstein says.

For home brewers who want to see how they stack up against the pros, there's the Home Brew Competition. "We actually have certified judges coming in for the tasting and judging," Koberstein says.

All attendees can vote for their favorite brew, and Kohler will put the winning beer on tap in its Horse & Plow pub for the 2010 summer.

"People are looking for something different with beer today," says Koberstein. "It's followed the same trend as wine. People are being much more experimental and are trying new things."

SO MUCH HAPPENED BEFORE DOROTHY DROPPED IN.



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Music

By Gregg Shapiro

Gay music men

IS LIFE A CABARET OR ISN'T IT?

The gay male music scene is divided into a few different camps. Julian Yeo and Carlo Chapelle represent the cabaret/show tunes faction. Yeo's "Deep Purple Dreams" (LML Music) adds a jazz hue to his interpretations of standards by Jobim ("How Insensitive"), Cole Porter ("Love For Sale," "Anything Goes," "Too Darn Hot"), Kurt Weill ("September Song") and Irving Berlin ("Let Yourself Go"), among others. Chapelle's "Shade of Blue" (LMGPOP) goes for a mood indigo with classics by Hoagy Carmichael ("Nearness of You"), Billie Holiday ("God Bless the Child") and the Bergmans with Michel Legrand ("What Are You Doing The Rest of Your Life?"), to name a few.

SINGING AND SONGWRITING

Gay singer/songwriters are in a league of their own. "Electric Grids & Concrete

Towers" (Deep Tissue) is so polished and assured it's hard to believe that it's only Dylan Rice's second full-length disc. Songs such as the heartbreaking duet with Grazyna Auguscik on "Eggshells & Landmines," the bisexual encounter of "Emma Jane," the queer country-tinged consequences of "Homewrecker's Lament," the thrilling centerpiece "Motel Daughters," the dancing blues of "Pleasure Pilot" and the erotic religious experience of "Rome" buzz with the energy suggested by the electric grids of the disc's title.

While it doesn't have the same spark as the Rice disc, "With A Pen" (withapen.com) by Stephen Leonard is sure to appeal to fans of simple and straightforward folk-tinged tunes. Leonard has a warm, strong vocal quality. The title track (on which he boldly boasts of doing crossword puzzles in ink), the intoxicating "Intoxicated

and the piano and vocal number "7 am" hold promise for the future.

Blue-eyed soul singer Todd Alsup has a voice meant for raising the roof. Alsup puts his impressive pipes to good use on his eponymous debut album (Major Who Records), a collection of original ballads including "The Way It Goes," "You Are" and "Getting Gone," and jamming rhythmic tracks, such as "I Feel," "Let's Have A Party" and "The Only Thing."

Josh Zuckerman has found a home for his music videos on the LGBT cable network Logo. "I Thought You Loved Me," for instance, from his latest album "Got Love?" (joshzuckerman.com), was in heavy rotation. Zuckerman also rocks out on the title tune "Take" and is adept at slowing it down on "Fall In Love Again."

On the clever side, comedic singer/songwriter Ben Lerman demonstrates his diversity on the EP "Size

Matters" (benlerman.com), on which he raps ("Ben Lerman Plays Ukulele"), gets you to shake your booty ("Chubby Chaser") and flashes the suggestive retro part of himself ("The Idol in Me").

NEW BREED

A new breed of gay male musicians, including Owen Pallett (formerly known as Final Fantasy), Ed Droste (of Grizzly Bear), Kele Okereke (of Bloc Party) and Jónsi (of Sigur Ros) are redefining the genre. On "Death to God" (Noise On Noise) deVries invents a new genre – "shoegayze" – a queer take on the shoegaze craze of the late 1980s/early 1990s. DeVries sprinkles glitter on the 14 tracks here, glamming it up on "Boys Are Bored," "Girl In The Fur-Skin Rug," "Black Thursday Repeat," "Shoulder To Shoulder" and the slim-hip shaker "Darkest Summer."

Fans of Chris Garneau

Music next page



Out singer/songwriter Todd Alsup performs June 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the Pump! Dance Pavilion at PrideFest Milwaukee.



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EMILY VITRANO, MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER

Music next page

will find much to like on "Oh, Light" (Sounds Super Recordings) by Careful. Careful (a.k.a. Eric Lindley) gives listeners a soft place to land. Curl up with someone and seek the solace of "Scrappy," "Laid, or Lain," "Fox and His Friends," "I Loved a Girl but She Love Me" and "We Give Up."

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Collaboration appears to be the word of the day. One of the most inspired collaborations on record is gay male cut-and-paste electro wizards Matmos and new music quartet So Percussion's "Treasure State" (Cantaloupe). The disc opens with the twisted tropical island breeze of "Treasure," which is followed by the sonic splash of "Water." "Needles" is a shot of funk, as are "Cross" and the crinkly "Aluminum."

Victor Krummenacher, the openly gay founding member of Camper Van Beethoven, returns with "Time For Leaving" (Magnetic), a col-

laboration with Alison Faith Levy under the moniker McCabe & Mrs. Miller. The 11 tracks are a blues-and-roots blend of insurgent country numbers, the best of which is the stunning title cut.

More than a dozen years after his collaboration with Bernard Butler (ex-London Suede), British soul genius David McAlmont teamed up with legendary film score composer Michael Nyman (the British Philip Glass) for "The Glare" (MN). The title refers to the spotlight, and over the course of 11 songs the unlikely duo addresses the subject from various perspectives, including Susan Boyle's (the titular track) and Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi ("In Rai Don Giovanni").

SIMPLY DELICIOUS

Coming as it does after the instantly accessible and intoxicating "Hey, Eugene," Pink Martini's "Splendor In The Grass" (Heinz) is a bit jarring and takes a few listens to penetrate. Gay martini-master Thomas M. Lauderdale subtly shakes and stirs listeners over the course of 14 tasty tracks. An

exotic a musical experience (listen for the sitar on "Tuca tuca"), Pink Martini plays it cool throughout – the cocktail instrumental "Ohayoo Ohio," the multi-layered titular ballad and Schubert-inspired "And Then You're Gone," the cabaret style of "Sunday Table," a faithful rendition of "Sing" and even the slightly suggestive "Bitty Boppy Betty," about a cross-dressing D.A. The disc's near-boiling point occurs on out lesbian Chavela Vargas' guest spot "Piensa En Mi."

Avi Wisnia would fit in well with the Pink Martini crowd. The 10 originals on "Something New" (aviwisnia.com), including the title song, "More Than Me," "Sink," "The Back of Your Hand" and even the countrified "I Wish That I Could Stop Writing Songs About You," feature piano and vocals often backed up by a tight combo. Wisnia demonstrates unique taste in covers with his compelling renditions of The Cure's "Love Song" and TLC's "No Scrubs."

The music plays on at www.wisconsinazette.com.

DVDiva

By Gregg Shapiro

'THE BIG GAY MUSICAL'

(Embrem)

A musical within a movie, "The Big Gay Musical" (Embrem) takes us behind the scenes of the off-Broadway show "Adam & Steve ... Just the Way God Made Them," as well as behind the scenes of some of the cast members' lives. Paul (Daniel Robinson), who plays Adam, is a seasoned theater performer who also works at a cabaret bar called Mostly Sondheim. Inexperienced Eddie (Joel Dudding) is so excited about being in his first New York production that he calls his fundamentalist religious parents to share his happiness, only to have it dashed when they tell him they plan on coming to town for opening night. The problem is that Eddie's not out to them.

The stage is set, so to



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Big Gay Musical"

speak, for all sorts of things to happen. And they do. Both the movie and the play within the movie are full of messages about modern gay life, including HIV/AIDS prevention, relationships, ex-gay ministries and religious extremism, family, friendship, the coming out process, losing one's virginity, monogamy, online dating, disillusionment and sex work, just to mention a few.

As a cinematic device, the interweaving of the play and the musical work well together, and the musical numbers (some of which include scantily clad per-

formers) are clever. In fact, the Effie from "Dreamgirls" homage is not to be missed.

Co-directors Caspar Andreas and Fred M. Caruso prove to be a successful creative team on this unexpectedly ambitious project. DVD special features include the entire 45-minute "Adam & Steve" musical, a "Making of the Big Gay Musical" featurette, with outtakes and cast and crew interviews and more.

For more DVD reviews, www.wisconsinazette.com

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On stage

By Gregg Shapiro

* Denotes LGBT performer or venue

May 20, Thursday

* Renaissance Theaterworks' "American Fiesta" by Steven Tomlinson, featuring John McGivern, runs through May 23 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

*Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Joel Kopishcke and a host of local singing stars perform in the SideNotes Cabaret Series' "Prime Cuts," a celebration of songs that never made it to Tinsel Town or the Great White Way, through May 29 at Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road in Elm Grove. Call 262-782-4430.

Disney's "The Lion King" runs through May 23 at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

May 21, Friday

Women's Voices Milwaukee performs at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night at Marian Center For Nonprofits, 3195 S. Superior. Call 414-841-3707.

Mono and The Twilight Sad play Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, presents Mike Mangione at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Florentine Opera Company presents "Rigoletto," sung in Italian with English supertitles, tonight through Sunday in the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Skylight Opera Theatre presents the musical "Rent" through June 20 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Crash Test Dummies plays an early seated show at 7 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

Gary Louris (of the Jayhawks) performs at 9:30 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in

Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

May 22, Saturday
*Wisconsin's biggest all-gay chorus Perfect Harmony presents "Broadway, Our Way," a collection of Broadway favorites from the last four decades at 7 p.m. in Mills Hall, UW-Madison Humanities Building, 455 N. Park in Madison. Call Perfect Harmony at (608) 445-6767 or visit perfectharmonychorus.org.

*Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, has Roshambo at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Soul sensations Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings play The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Comedian Paul F. Tompkins is at Majestic, 115 King in Madison at 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

Restaurant Magnus, 120 E. Wilson in Madison, welcomes Stellanovas at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-258-8787.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, presents The Motorz at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

May 23, Sunday

*Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, presents a live female impersonator show, at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, welcomes Crash Test Dummies at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

May 24, Monday

Midlake plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663

May 25, Tuesday

The Tallest Man on Earth is at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes The Vega Star with Tarlton and Luke Polipnick at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

May 26, Wednesday

*Queer band The Shondes performs at 9 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents Toots & The Maytals at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, has Birthday



The BoDeans celebrate a ninth studio release, "Mr. Sad Clown," with a special concert at 8 p.m. May 28, at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

COURTESY PHOTO

Suits with The Blind Shake at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

May 27, Thursday *Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, has The Historical Mystery Band with Jerry Grillo at 8 p.m. Call 414-672-7988.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, presents Moonalice at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

"The Pillowman" by Martin McDonagh runs through May 30 at Off The Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells. Call 414-327-3552.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, hosts the "Happy Together" Tour 25th Anniversary featuring The Turtles with Flo & Eddie, The Grass Roots with Rob Grill, The Buckingham, Micky Dolenz and Mark Lindsay at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Karma To Burn and Year Long Disaster are at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, at 9 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

May 28, Friday

*Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Divas Night, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Josh Rouse plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The BoDeans, one of Milwaukee's most popular and enduring bands, celebrates a ninth studio release, "Mr. Sad Clown," with a special CD release concert at 8 p.m. at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Skylight Opera Theatre presents "An Evening With Gilbert & Sullivan," written and directed by Dale Gutzman, founder and artistic director of Off The Wall Theatre, tonight through June 20 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Restaurant Magnus, 120 E.

Wilson in Madison, has Trio du Monde at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-258-8787.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, hosts The Projection People CD release show at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

May 29, Saturday

*Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Brian Jonestown Massacre plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, welcomes Shannon Curfman at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Restaurant Magnus, 120 E. Wilson in Madison, presents Gadjo Players at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-258-8787.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, has His And Her Vanities with The Hemlines at 10 p.m. Call 608-

819-8777.

May 30, Sunday

*Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, hosts a live female impersonator show at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

Ray Manzarek & Robby Krieger (of The Doors) perform at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, presents Czarbles with White Problems and Absolutely at 8 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, welcomes Moonalice at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

June 2, Wednesday

Holy F*** performs at 8 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, presents Peter Buffett at 6 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

June 3, Thursday

*Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

"Summer dances: Uncovered," featuring the premieres of "Prologue and Boi Redux," "What You're Thinking," "Covered," "Sink, Gasp, Float" and "The Ultimate Sun Package," runs tonight through June 5 at 7:30 p.m. at UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, presents Jewel at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

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Arts/entertainment

Cream City Chorus, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 53212, 414-276-8787.

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080.

Men's Voices Milwaukee Chorus, Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St., 53211, 414-964-1513.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., 53204, 414-383-3727.

Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, 414-229-4758, www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/film/lgbtfilm.

Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500.

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St., 53212.

Shoreline Country Dancers, 818 S. Water St. (Hot Water Bar), 53204, www.shoreline-milw.org.

Community

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, www.bvgays.com.

BWMT Milwaukee (Black & White Men Together), P.O. Box 1091475, 53209, 414-463-5359.

CONNEXUS/African American LGBT Social and Educational Program, 2439 N. Holton, 53212, 414-390-0444.

Cream City Foundation, 759 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 212, 53202, 414-225-0244.

Equality Wisconsin, 2717 E. Hampshire, 53211, 414-431-1306, www.equalitywi.org.

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201.

FORGE, P.O. Box 1271, 53201, www.forge-forward.org.

GAMMA-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 1900, 53201, 414-530-1886, www.milwaukeegamma.com.

G/L Community Trust Fund, P.O. Box 1686, 53201, 414-643-1652.

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214.

Lesbian Alliance, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-272-9442.

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, 316 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 215, 53202, 414-290-7350, www.womensfund.com.

LOC/Women of Color, P.O. Box 93594, 53203, 414-263-1631.

Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 53212, 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org.

Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, www.mkelgbthist.org.

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-299-9198.

Pridefest, 315 W. Court St., Suite 203, 53212, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.

Pride Parade, www.pride-parademke.com.

SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220, 53202, 414-224-0517.

SHEBA/Sisters Helping Each other Battle AIDS, 2349 N. Holton, 53212, 414-390-0444.

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, deby-doo2@yahoo.com.

Washington Heights Rainbow Association, 414-217-1571, on Facebook.

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 53212, info@wirainbowfamilies.com.

Health

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, 820 N. Plankinton Ave., 53203, 414-273-1991.

BEST D Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St., 53202, 414-272-2144.

Diverse and Resilient, 2439 N. Holton, 53212, 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org.

Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201-A, 53212, 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

Health Institute of Milwaukee, 1817 N. Martin Luther King Dr., Suite 3, 53212, 414-263-9999.

Milwaukee Women's Center, 611 N. Broadway, Suite 230, 53202, 414-272-6199.

STD Specialities Clinic, 3251 N. Holton, 53212, 414-264-8800, www.stdspecialities.org.

Walker's Point Community Clinic, 611 W. National Ave., Suite 400, 53204, 414-384-1400.

Religion/spirituality

Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., 53233, 414-344-1600.

Congregation Shir Hadash, 414-297-9159, www.cshmilw.org.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746.

Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 W. Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257.

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190. Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Place, 53212.

Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-964-1513.

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233, 414-271-1340.

Sports

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379.

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 414-616-3716.

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clarke St., 53212, 414-405-5878, www.milwaukeegayssoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 53210, www.ssblmilwaukee.com.

Youth/Education

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 53205, 414-227-2550, www.allianceschool.org.

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 53214, 414-453-1400, www.cssw.org.

Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500.

LGBT Resource Center at UWM, U.W.-M. Student Union WG-89, P.O. Box 413, 53201, 414-229-4116, www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT.

Marquette U G/L Alumni, P.O. Box 92722, 53202. Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233.

Project Q, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 53212, 414-223-3220.

Rainbow Alliance at UWM, E. Kenwood Ave., 414-229-6555.



KENOSHA

Religion/spirituality

Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist, 5810 8th Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544.

MADISON

Arts/entertainment

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls, Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, 53713, 608-277-9700.

Community

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., 53073, 608-255-8582, www.lgbt Outreach.org.

Politics

Fair Wisconsin, 122 State, Suite 500, 53703, 608-441-0143, www.actionwisconsin.com.

Sports

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madison-gayhockey.org. Madison Volleyball Group, 608-251-8716.

RACINE

Community

LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., 53403, 262-664-4100, www.lgbtsewisconsin.org.

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Mondays, Wednesdays-Saturdays, the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, holds drop-in hours. Info: www.lgbtsewisc.org, 262-664-4100.

THURSDAY

2:30 p.m., first and third Thursdays, LGBT senior adults discussion, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison. Info: ferington@charter.net.

6 p.m., third Thursdays, same-sex partners group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: 608-255-8582, www.lgbtouthreach.org.

6 p.m., Qgrads, UW Memorial Union Rathskeller, 800 Langdon St., Madison.

7 p.m., third Thursdays, Lesbian Alliance movie night, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442.

7 p.m., AA Living Sober; 7 p.m., Crystal Meth Anonymous, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., Q2-LGBTQ Youth Group, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702. Info: 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

7:30 p.m., Four Lakes Bears, Michelangelo's Coffee Shop, 114 State St., Madison. Info: 608-251-5299.

FRIDAY

4-7 p.m., fourth Friday, Happy Hour with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, rotating location in Milwaukee/Madison. Info: www.ppawi.org.

5:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Pozitive Lite HIV/AIDS group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: 608-255-8582.

6 p.m., second Fridays,

Lesbian Alliance game night and potluck, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442.

7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., Gay Narcotics Anonymous, 315 W. Court St., Second floor, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936.

7 p.m., Drop-in night, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702, Info: 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

8:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Shoreline Milwaukee line dancing and lessons, Hot Water, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-75936.

SATURDAY

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Walkers Milwaukee Run Walk, starting at the Water Tower at the East end

of North Avenue, Milwaukee. Info: 262-285-7645.

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Madison, Wingra Park off Monroe St., Madison. Info: 608-469-4882.

6 p.m., AA The Women's Light meeting; 7:30 p.m., Spiritual Light, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

6 p.m., Rotating Activity Night each week, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702. Info: 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

7-8:30 p.m., third Saturdays, BWMT (Black and White Men Together), general meeting.

SUNDAY

1 p.m., Cream City Squares dances, Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee.

7 p.m., AA The Big Book

meeting, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

5 p.m., OutThere LGBT youth group meeting, OutReach, Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: 608-255-8582.

5 p.m., third Sundays, PFLAG Milwaukee, Martin Luther Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa.

MONDAY

7 p.m., Spectrum, LGBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton. Info: ericksoc@gmail.com, 917-669-7529.

7:30 p.m., AA Came to Believe, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

TUESDAY

12:30 p.m., third Tuesday, Retired Old/Older Lesbians (ROLLers), Madison. Info: 608-219-7751.

5 p.m., AA Over 40; 7 p.m. AA The Blue Group, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., Spectrum LGBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay.

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m., AA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., first Wednesday, Bear Club 4 Men monthly meeting, Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, Info: bearclub4men@gmail.com.

Send listings to ltomaszek@wisconsin gazette.com.

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

THURSDAY

May 20

5:30-7:30 p.m., OutReach Garden Party, the home of Frank and Dolores Emspak, 916 Castle Place, Madison, 608-255-8582.

7:30 p.m., Equality Wisconsin fundraiser, American Fiesta with John McGivern, Broadway Theater Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, 414-431-1306.

FRIDAY

May 21

6:30-9 p.m., Movie night, LGBT Center of S.E. Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, www.lgbtsewisc.org.

7 p.m., Women's Voices Milwaukee concert, Marian Center, 3211 South Lake Drive, 414-483-2430.

SATURDAY

May 22

3:45-5 p.m., LGBT writer's group, Mo's Cafe, 5537 Sixth Ave., Kenosha, asstdirector@lgbtsewisc.org.

6-9 p.m., Stitch-n-Bitch, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

7 p.m., Women's Voices Milwaukee concert, Marian Center, 3211 South Lake Drive, Milwaukee, 414-483-2430.

10 p.m., Dangerous Curves Ahead, Brew City Bombshells Burlesque, Times Cinema, 5906 Vliet St., Milwaukee, 414-906-5304.

SUNDAY

May 23

11 a.m., Spring hike and brunch with GAMMA, 414-530-1886, milwaukee gamma.com.

6-8 p.m., Ric Fest Awards banquet, Montage (top floor

SAVE THE DATE

Positive Voice of Green Bay is holding its second annual Prom June 13. The cash bar will open at 5 p.m., dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and music and dancing will follow. The cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. RSVP by June 1 to Lynn at 715-850-0841 or inthewoods5419@hotmail.com.

of La Cage), 801 S. Second St., Milwaukee.

MONDAY

May 24

5-9 p.m., Vino and Verse annual fundraiser, Boulevard Theater, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee, 414-744-5757, www.boulevardtheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY

May 26

6:30 p.m., Q Cinema, The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros,

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P-1, Madison, 608-255-8582, harrys@lgbtouthreach.org.

THURSDAY

May 27

5:30 p.m., PrideFest 2010 Official Volunteer meeting, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., Milwaukee.

FRIDAY

May 28

7-8:30 p.m., "Celebrating Diversity" exhibit opening

reception, LGBT Center of S.E. Wisconsin, Racine, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, www.lgbtsewisc.org.

SATURDAY

May 29

2 p.m., Chef Al's Lazy Days cook-out, Brew City Bears, Lazy Days Campground, West Bend, 414-514-4063.

SUNDAY

May 30

11 a.m., Bicycle ride with GAMMA, 414-530-1886, milwaukee gamma.com.

TUESDAY

June 1

7 p.m., Men Surviving Domestic Violence support group, Madison, 608-255-8582, men.dv.support@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY

June 2

7-9 p.m., Fox Valley Democracy for America meeting, Harmony Cafe, 124 N. Oneida St., Appleton, 920-722-6438, www.harmonycafe.org.

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Professional, experienced Executive Assistant seeking employment as a Personal or Executive Assistant. Private or Professional. Full-time preferred, but amenable to part-time. Open to other job opportunities. For a copy of resume, please inquire via email. Age: 34 Experience: 7 years (both Small Business and Corporate).

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Swimming Pool & Spa Service Racine & Kenosha Area 262-857-7470.

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have to live in full time. Seeking SGWM, age 24-34, for this position. It is not a difficult job. If you live in rent would be minimal. Reimbursed for gas \$. Please send stats and what your plan is for the next 5 years with contact info. Must have references & a phone of your own. Perfect for college

or grad student. All the comforts of home. Send to: hummelcreche@netzero.net.

BWMT

Black and White Men Together (BWMT) invites men of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and ages together for

socializing! Join us at 7 pm, on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Dinner outings, and other group activities. For more information: www.nabwmt.org/milwaukee.

Read us online: wiscongazette.com

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STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

KENOSHA/RACINE

Club ICON, 6305 120th St. (off I-94), Kenosha, 262-857-3240

JoDee's, 2139 Racine St., Racine, 262-634-9804

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Art Bar, 722 Burleigh, 414-372-7880

Ballgame, 196 S. Second St., 414-273-7474

Boom & The Room, 625 S. Second St., 414-277-5040

Boot Camp, 209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900

City Lights Chill & Grill, 111 W. Howard Ave., 414-481-1441

Fluid, 819 S. Second St., 414-643-5843

Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, 414-672-7988

Hybrid, 707 E. Brady St., 414-810-1809

JACK, 200 E. Washington St., 414-389-3596

Kruz, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-KRUZ

LaCage, 801 S. Second St., 414-383-8330

Mona's, 1407 S. First St., 414-643-0377

Nut Hut, 1500 W. Scott, 414-647-2673

Pump, (Sundays at Decibel), 1905 E. North Ave., 414-272-3337

This Is It, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192

Triangle, 135 E. National Ave., 414-383-9412

Tropical Niteclub, 626 S. Fifth St., 414-460-6277

Walker's Pint, 818 S. Second St., 414-643-7468

Woody's, 1579 S Second St., 414-672-0806

MADISON

Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, 608-277-9700

Plan B, 924 Williamson St., 608-257-5262

Shamrock, 117 W. Main St., 608-255-5029

WOOF'S, 114 King St., 608-204-6222

BELOIT/JANESVILLE

Impulse, 132 W. Grand Ave., Beloit, 608-361-0000

Off The Wagon, 18-24 S River St., Janesville, 608-359-3209

LACROSSE

My Place, 3201 South Ave., 608-788-9073

Players, 300 Fourth St., 608-784-4200

Chances R, 417 Jay St., 608-782-5105

WISCONSIN DELLS

Captain Dix Rainbow Valley Resort, 4124 River Road, 866-553-1818

SHEBOYGAN

Blue Lite, 1029 N. Eighth St., 920-457-1636

FOX VALLEY

Rascals Bar & Grill, 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton, 920-954-9262

Ravens, 215 E. College Ave., Appleton, 920-364-9599

Napalese, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, 920-432-9646

SASS, 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay, 920-437-7277

The Shelter, 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay, 920-432-2662

XS Niteclub, 1106 Main St., Green Bay, 920-430-1301

Debs Spare Time, 1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh, 920-235-6577

NORTHERN

Scooters, 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire, 715-835-9959

JT's Bar and Grill, 1506 N. Third St., Superior, 715-394-2580

The Flame, 1612 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-395-0101

The Main 1217 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-392-1756
OZ, 320 Washington St., Wausau, 715-842-3225



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